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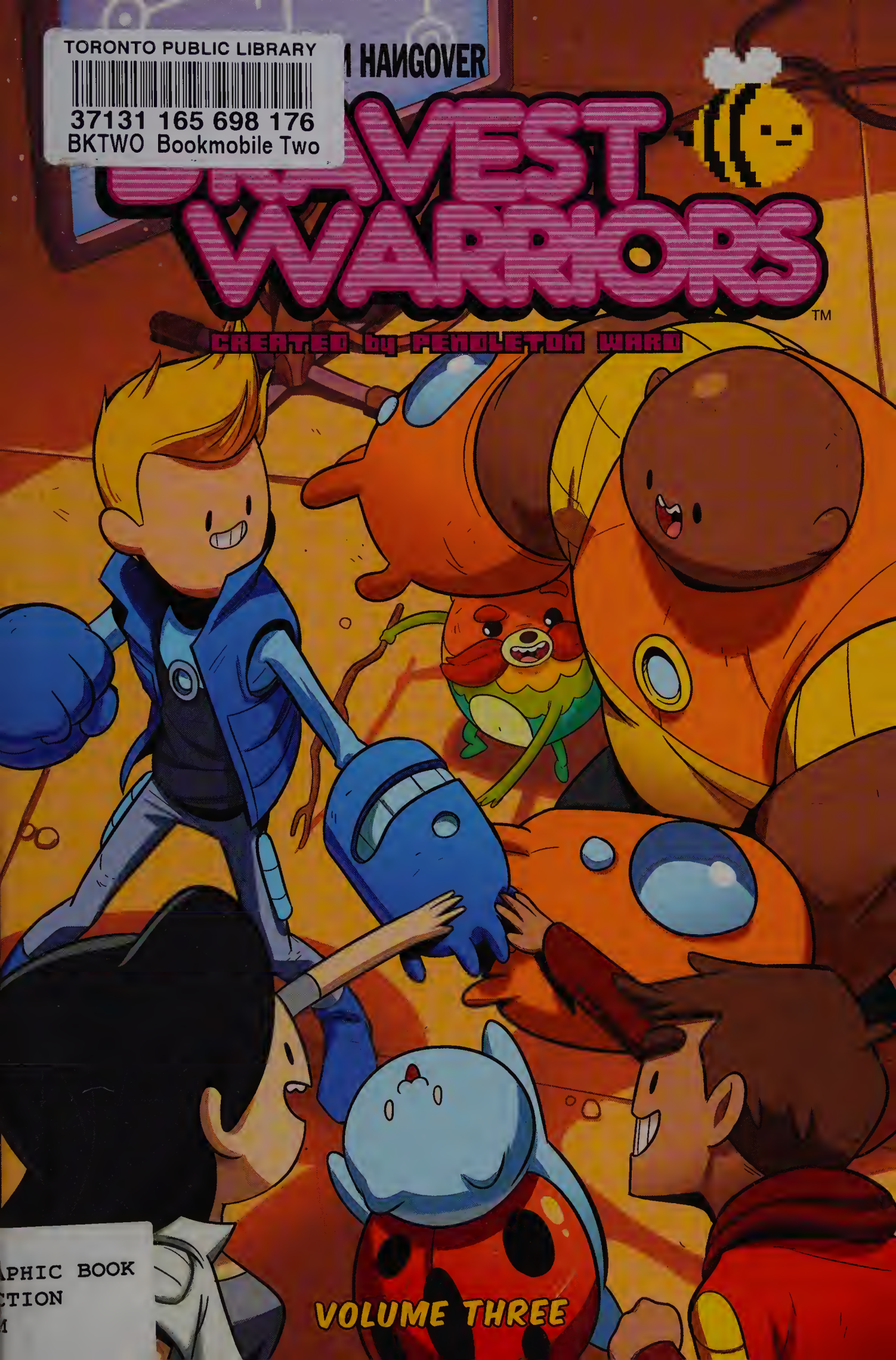

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CARTOON HANGOVER

BRAVEST WARRIORS

CREATED by PENDLETON WARD

VOLUME THREE

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A catalog record of this book is available from OCLC and from the KaBOOM! website, www.kaboom-studios.com, on the Librarians Page.

BOOM! Studios, 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 450, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679. Printed in China. First Printing.
ISBN 978-1-60886-397-6, eISBN 978-1-61398-251-8

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SHORT MISSIONS

"DRAWING WITH CATBUG"

"BOARD TO DEATH"

"DRAWING WITH IMPOSSIBEAR"

AND

"WARP ZONED OUT"

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO BREEHN BURNS, ERIC HOMAN, FRED SEIBERT AND ALL OF THE CLASSY FOLKS AT FREDERATOR STUDIOS.

BETH
TEZUKA

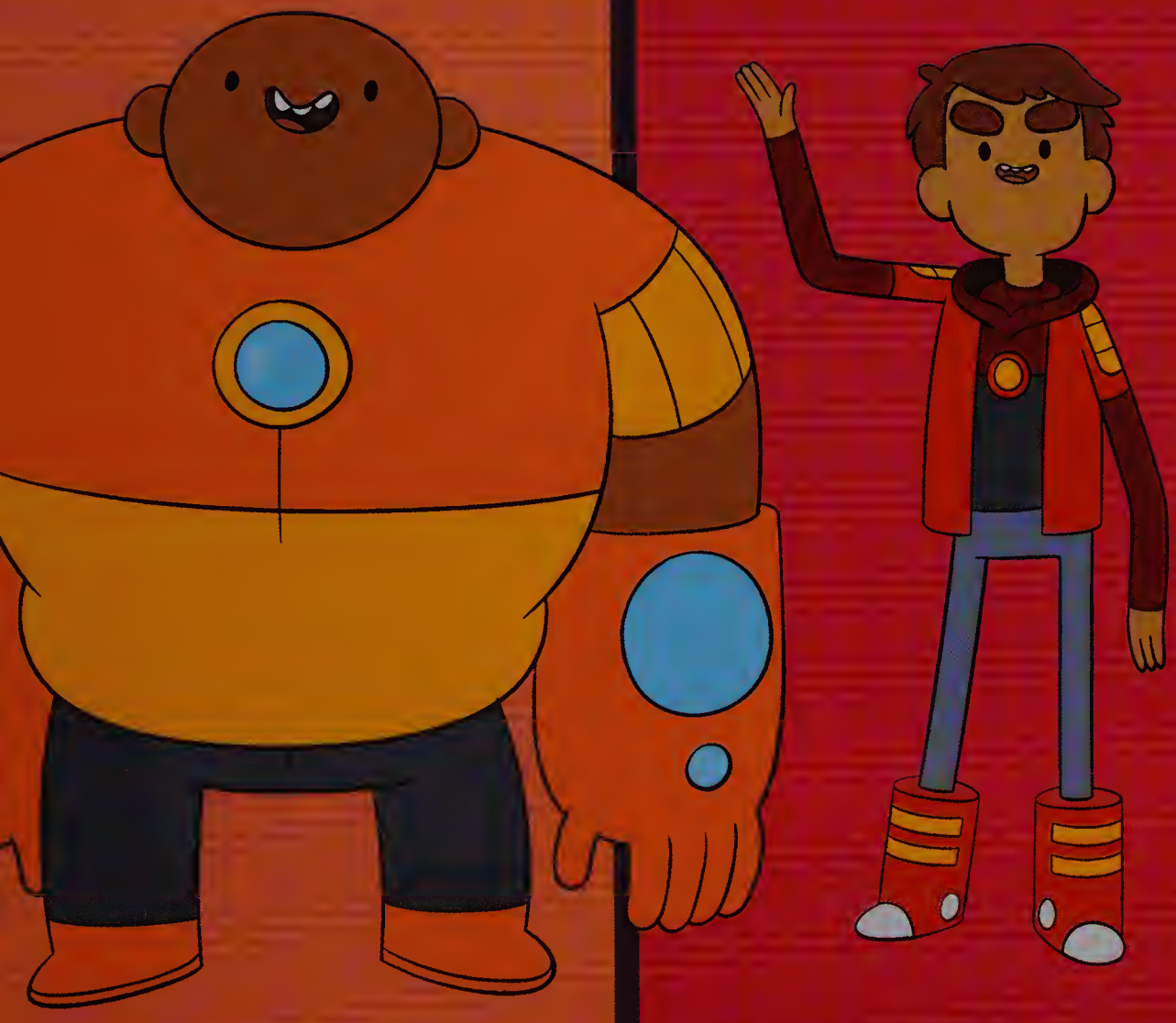
PLAYER
1

CHRIS
KIRKMAN

PLAYER
2

WALLOW

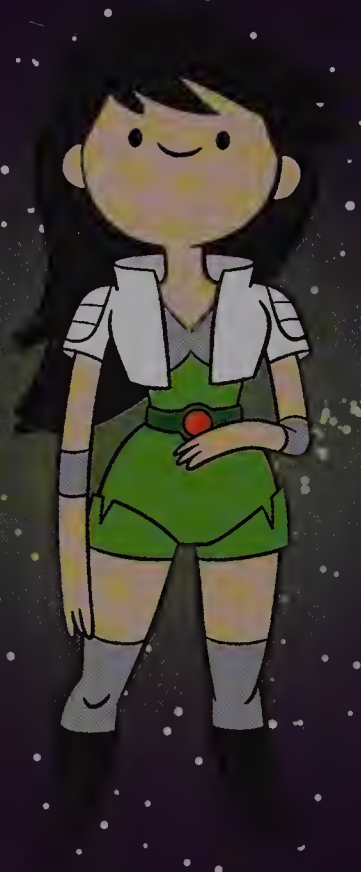
DANNY
VASQUEZ



PLAYER
3

PLAYER
4

CHAPTER NINE



FRIENDSHIP UNLOCKED!

As another day draws to a close, even the Bravest Warriors must sleep...
GOODNIGHT GUYS! I APPRECIATE OUR FRIENDSHIP!
DON'T BE WEIRD, WALLOW.

HISTORY
KEEP IT TOGETHER, MAN. YOU CAN DO THIS. IT'S ONLY BEDTIME.
IF THIS BEDROOM'S A-ROCKIN'
SOMETHING HAS GONE TERRIBLY WRONG.
-XO WALLOW

FLOP
BETH... JOIN US, BETH...

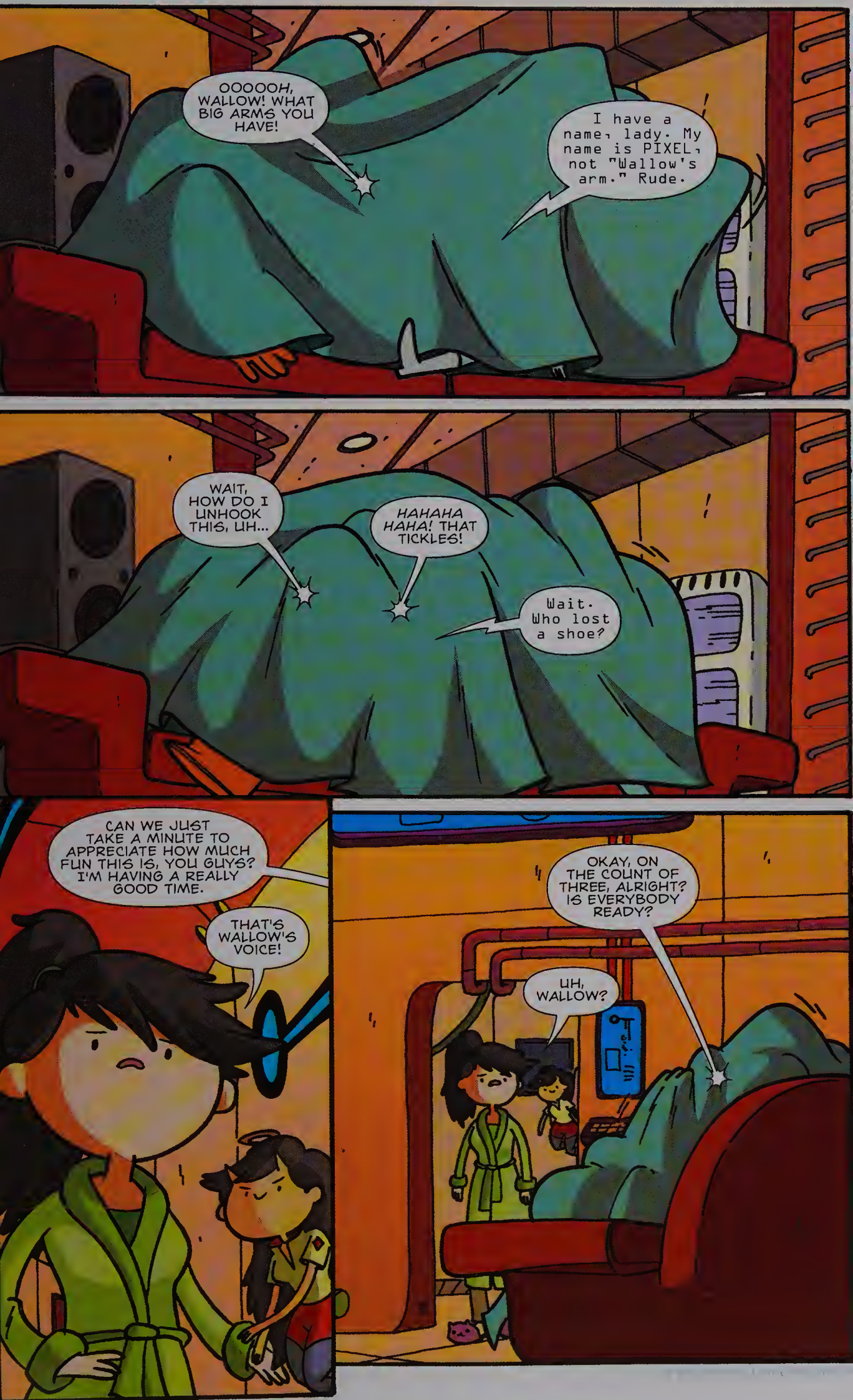
OOOOO! IT'S LIKE A WHOLE KINGDOM MADE OF--
PSSST!
PSSST.
PSSST. HEY.
YOU DON'T WANT TO SLEEP. SLEEPING IS FOR CHUMPS.
UH...
SQUIK SKWIK

CARTOON HANGOVER
BRAVEST WARRIORS
GET UP! YOU DON'T WANT TO SLEEP. YOU WANT TO SMOOCH SOMEONE. RIGHT?
AM I RIGHT?
TELL ME MORE OF THIS SMOOCHING YOU SPEAK OF.

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND SOMEONE TO SMOOCH ON.
AND THEN...WE SMOOCH THEM?
THIS IS GOING TO BE AWESOME.
THIS IS GOING TO END BADLY AGAIN, ISN'T IT? I DON'T KNOW WHY I EVER LISTEN TO YOU.
THIS TIME IS GONNA BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT. THINK OF THE SMOOCHES!
SMOOCHES ARE PRETTY GREAT.

COMPUTER. LOAD BUTTER LETTUCE SMOOCH PARTY 6.
BEEP BEEP
MALFUNCTIO
MALFUNCTION.
COMPUTER. DO I LOOK LIKE I'M KIDDING AROUND RIGHT NOW?
BEEP BEEP
MALFUNCTION.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO THIS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.
PICK A DOOR, ANY DOOR!

BETH TEZUKA! She's a pretty smart person, but sometimes she lets Little Beth do all the thinking. Tonight is one of those nights. If you have any gods at all, you might want to pray to them now.
LITTLE BETH! Trouble. Nothing but trouble!
MRMN? OF COURSE IT'S REAL.
DANNY VASQUEZ! He knows how to build just about anything, and how to handle any problem. But can he handle a few smooches without getting weird? Previous holo-john experiments say no.
CHRIS KIRKMAN! He's a nice guy but hahaha can you imagine? Hahaha. That's a good one.
WALLOW! Wait. Wallow? He's not here? Maybe he's in the living room!


OOOOOH, WALLOW! WHAT BIG ARMS YOU HAVE!
I have a name, lady. My name is PIXEL, not "Wallow's arm." Rude.
WAIT, HOW DO I UNHOOK THIS, UH...
HAHAHA HAHA! THAT TICKLES!
Wait. Who lost a shoe?
CAN WE JUST TAKE A MINUTE TO APPRECIATE HOW MUCH FUN THIS IS, YOU GUYS? I'M HAVING A REALLY GOOD TIME.
THAT'S WALLOW'S VOICE!
OKAY, ON THE COUNT OF THREE, ALRIGHT? IS EVERYBODY READY?
UH, WALLOW?

LET'S DO THIS!

MAY I PLEASE KISS YOU?
I WOULD LIKE THAT! THANK YOU FOR ASKING!
Smooch
I THINK WE CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE FOR SMOOCHES, LITTLE BETH.
THIS IS LIKE A VACATION TO SMOOCH MOUNTAIN!
I AM GOING TO THE PEAK. I AM GOING TO THE PEAK OF SMOOCH MOUNTAIN.
WAIT. SOMETHING SEEMS WRONG.
HEY! HEY! QUIT SMOOCHING FOR A SECOND!
ARE YOU FORGETTING THE PLAN?
FRANCES. STOP. SMOOCHING.

STOP SMOOCHING? BUT...ISN'T THAT WHY WE CAME HERE? FOR HOVER-SMOOCHING?
YOU ALWAYS DO THIS, FRANCES. WE ARE NOT ACTUALLY SMOOCHERS.
WE ARE A BAND OF BLOOD-THIRSTY SPACE ASSASSINS WHO USE SMOOCHES AS A RUSE TO HACK THE FIREWALL DEFENSES OF FANCY HOUSES SO WE CAN KILL OUR TARGET!
OOOH! ASSASSINS! WAIT, THEN WHO AM I? WHO SHOULD I BE?
CAN I BE A SHIP'S CAPTAIN? OR LIKE, A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR WHO HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ONE OF YOU AND THINKS HE CAN RESCUE YOU FROM A LIFE OF CRIME WITH SMOOCHES?
NO!
YES PLEASE!

WALLOW IS INTO SOME WEIRD SMOOCHES, EH?
NO, I THINK THOSE MIGHT BE REAL ASSASSINS.
DON'T WORRY, WALLOW! WE'RE NOT HERE TO KILL YOU. WE'LL FIND THE EMOTION LORD, KILL HIM, AND THEN MAYBE WE CAN GET BACK TO BUSINESS.
THE CHEERFUL SISTERHOOD OF DARKNESS HAS MARKED YOUR PAL... FOR DEATH.
THE EMOTION LORD? DO THEY MEAN CHRIS? HAS CHRIS ONCE AGAIN SPOILED MY SMOOCH TIMES WITH HIS STRANGE DOOMED FUTURE?!?!
PUNCH THAT ONE! YEAH! FACE PUNCH!
GOT YOU!
HA HA! THIS IS ALMOST AS GOOD AS SMOOCHING! BODY SLAM THE NEXT ONE PLEASE!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
ACK!
BETH! WE DIDN'T WAKE YOU UP, DID WE?
WALLOW, PLEASE BE QUIET. THE GROWN-UPS ARE TALKING.
BODY SLAM!!!!! HAHAHA!
THAT. WAS. AWESOME.

NOT BAD. NOT BAD AT ALL. WE UNDERESTIMATED THE EMOTION LORD'S DEFENSES.

LOOK AT YOU.
YOU HAVE A KILLER INSTINCT THAT EVEN I FIND INTIMIDATING.

YOU SHOULD JOIN US, BETH TEZUKA.
I ALREADY HAVE A JOB, LADY. I'M A SPACE HERO. ME AND MY FRIENDS, WE HELP PEOPLE.
KILLING PEOPLE PAYS BETTER!

BODY. SLAM. HER.
AND THERE ARE PERKS! EVERYONE THINKS ASSASSINS ARE WICKED BABES, FOR INSTANCE. WE GET ALL THE SMOOCHES WE WANT, ANY TIME WE WANT.
YOU THINK YOU CAN TEMPT ME WITH YOUR ILL-GOTTEN SMOOCHES, THE WAY YOU DID WITH WALLOW?

I HOPE SO.
YOU CAN TEMPT ME WITH ILL-GOTTEN SMOOCHES ANY DAY!

WELL, YOU CAN'T!
YOU'RE PROBABLY A TERRIBLE SMOOCHER ANYWAY!

WHO'S NEXT?
Smooch Smooch
I GUESS THAT'S THAT, THEN. OFF TO BED FOR US.
THANKS FOR RESCUING ME FROM THOSE SMOOCH ASSASSINS, BUDDY.
Smooch
YOU BEAT UP ALL THREE OF THEM! SO STRONG!
Smooch

THIS IS NICE. SMOOCHING IS PRETTY GREAT, YOU GUYS.
Smooch
Smooch
Smooch
THE END

CHAPTER TEN

FRIENDSHIP UNLOCKED!

Nakatomi Station, somewhere in the Winslow quadrant.
THANKS FOR LETTING ME RIDE UP FRONT WITH YOU. IT WAS LONELY BACK THERE.
I'M JUST GLAD FOR THE COMPANY. MOST PEOPLE DON'T EVEN TALK TO ME.
THEY'RE TOO RICH AND FANCY, WITH THEIR FANCY HATS AND THEIR FANCY ROBOT SPLEENS.
YOU STILL FEELING SICK?
IT'S JUST THE HYPER-DIMENSIONAL WARP-LAG.
GIVE THAT TOES THING A TRY. I'M NOT KIDDING, IT REALLY HELPS.

I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT PARTIES, PAISLEY. MAYBE I SHOULD JUST STAY DOWN HERE WITH YOU.
YOU'LL BE FINE. IT'LL BE GOOD TO SEE YOUR FRIEND AGAIN, ANYWAY, RIGHT?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. I'LL HANG OUT HERE UNTIL YOU SCOPE OUT THE SITUATION. I'LL BE YOUR ESCAPE PLAN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT!
IT'S NO TROUBLE. CROWDS MAKE ME NERVOUS, TOO. IF YOU DON'T NEED AN ESCAPE PLAN, JUST CALL IN A FEW MINUTES AND I'LL LEAVE.
I AM BETTER AT SAVING LIVES THAN PARTIES.

HELLO, WELCOME TO THE PARTY! IS *THAT* WHAT YOU'RE WEARING?
OH JEEZ...

JUST WAIT HERE AND YOUR OLD SCHOOL CHUM WILL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY.
I THINK YOU MEAN PAL, NOT CHUM. CHUM ATTRACTS TOO MANY SHARKS.
HUH! IT WORKS!
NOBODY MOVES AND NOBODY GETS MANGLED!

WE HAVE LOCKED THIS WHOLE SPACE STATION DOWN. WE ARE IN CONTROL, AND PROBABLY CRAZY, SO PLEASE BEHAVE.
FINALLY! A PARTY WHERE I GET TO SAVE PEOPLE!
BRAVEST WARRIORS

YOU THERE, BOSS?
IS...IS THE ULTIMATE DOOMSDAY DEVICE SUPPOSED TO BE THIS ADORABLE?
I'M CATBUG! I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE BUT I LIKE YOU!
HAVE YOU RETRIEVED THE ULTIMATE DOOMSDAY DEVICE? OVER.
UH... I THINK SO? I'M IN THE ELEVATOR ON MY WAY UP NOW.
YOU HAVE TO SAY "OVER," AFTER EVERYTHING WHEN WE USE THE RADIOS. IT'S THE RULES.
AND YES, IT IS AN ADORABLE APOCALYPSE MACHINE! OVER.

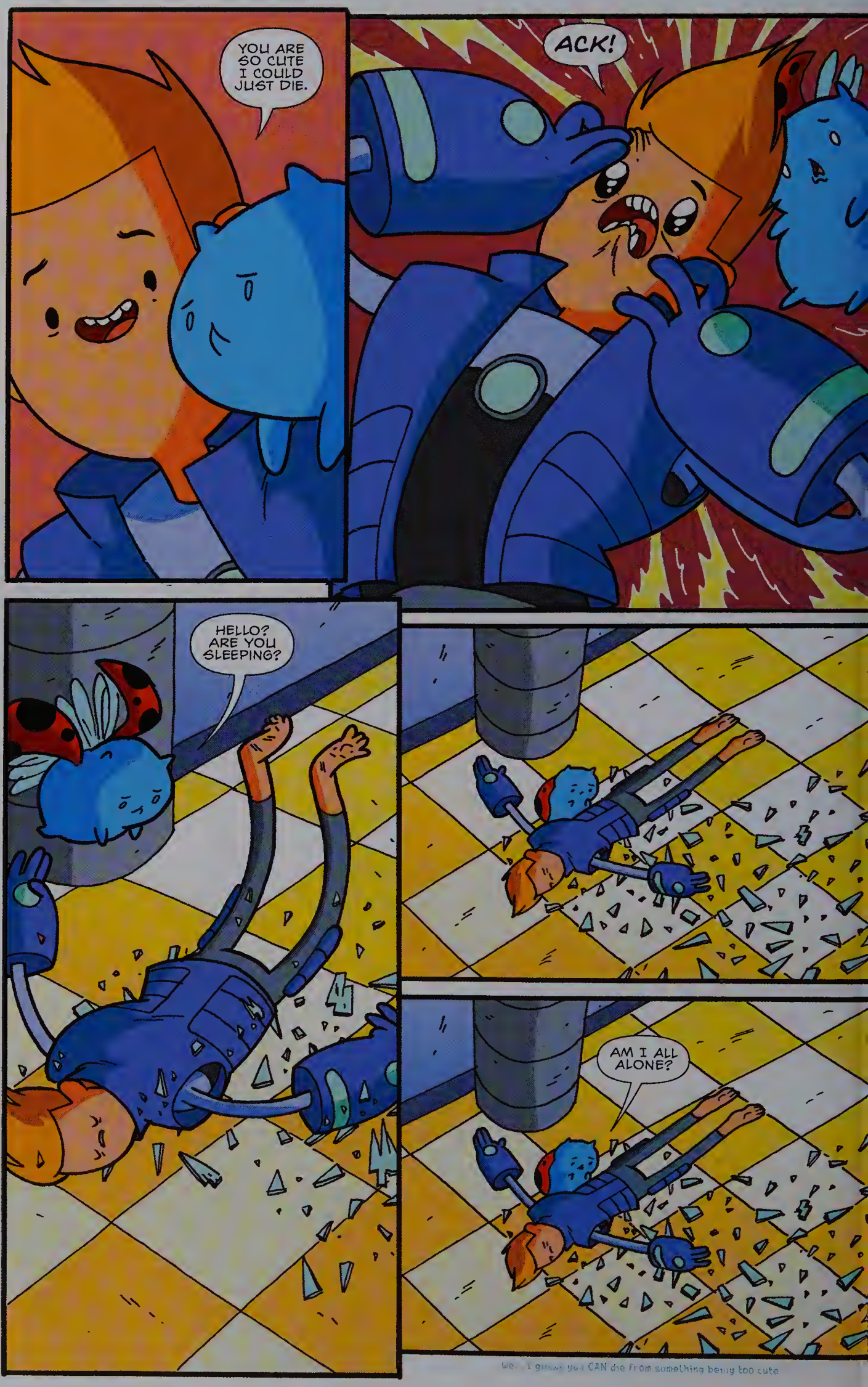
NOT WITH F... ...UT WITH FOGS

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A DOOMSDAY DEVICE.
THANK YOU! NEITHER DO YOU!
THIS IS YOUR STOP, EVIL DOER!
I'M AN EVIL DON'TER!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON, LITTLE BUDDY?
EEEEEVIL?
Meanwhile...
DING
WHAT? WHAT'S EVERYONE LOOKING AT?

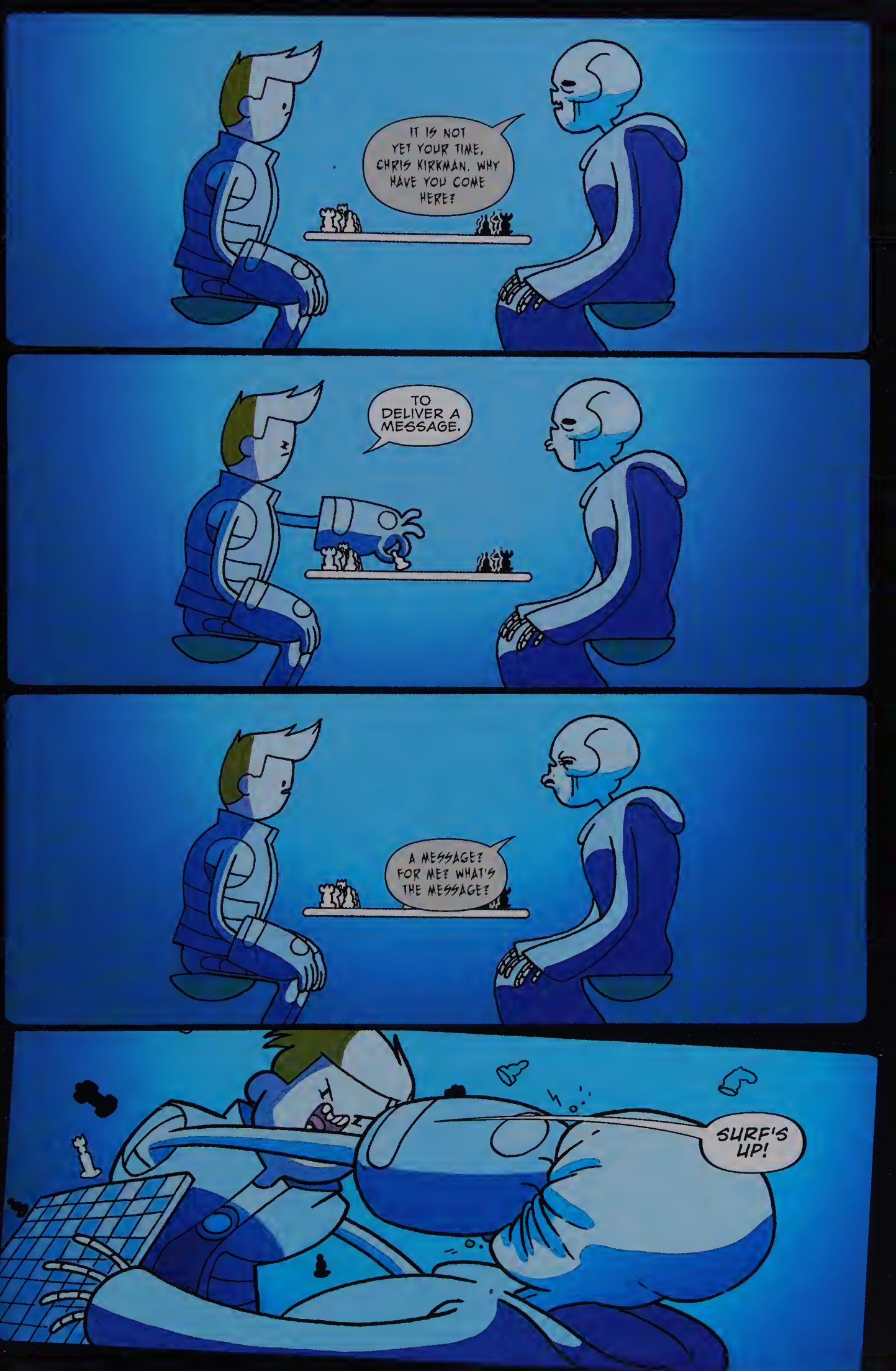
Haven't you people seen an elevator before?

NOW I HAVE
A CATBUG
HO-HO-HO

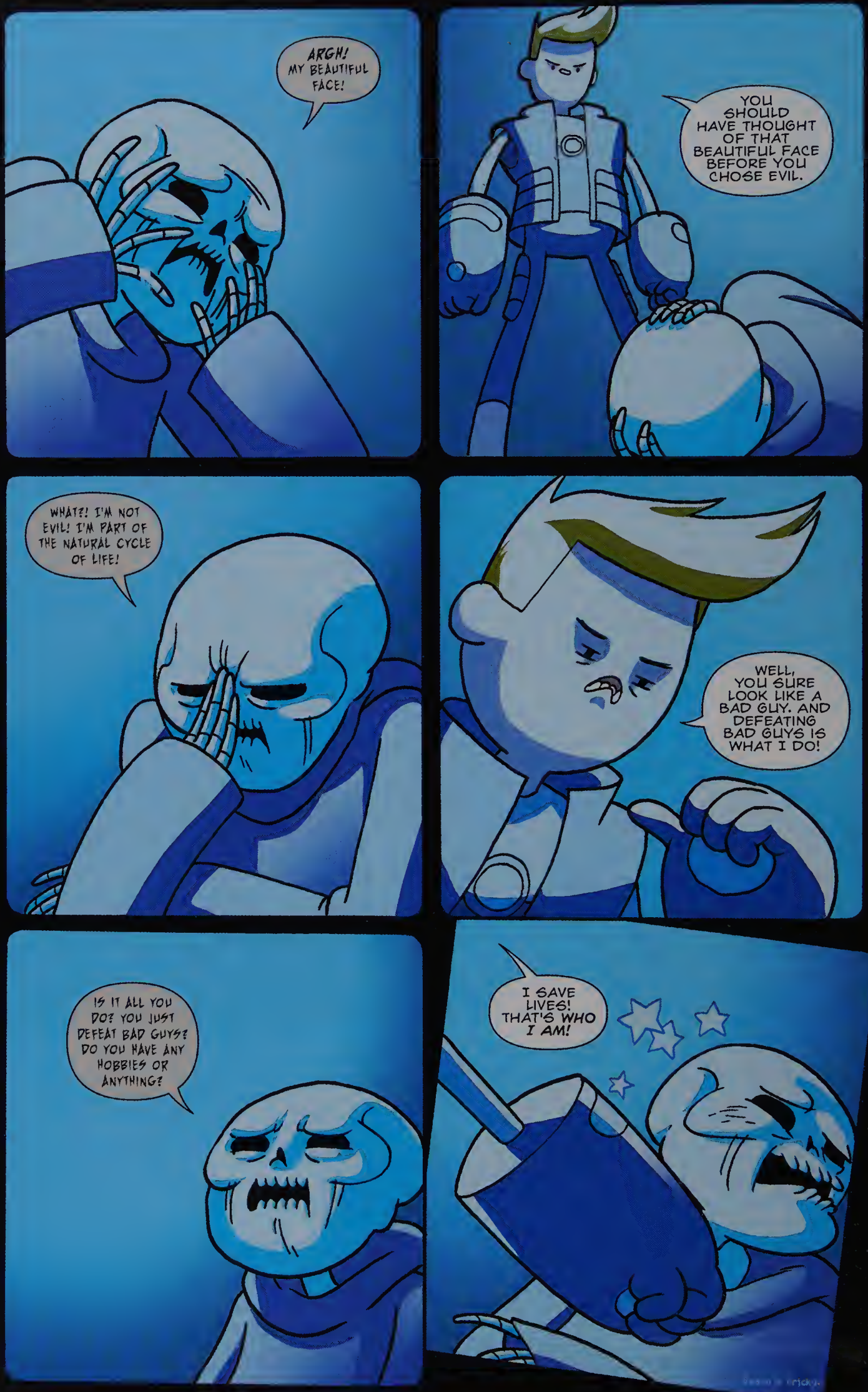
OH MY GOSH! DOESN'T THAT HURT YOUR FEET?
EXIT
EVERY.
TIME.
WHY WERE THEY AFTER YOU ANYWAY, CATBUG?
BECAUSE I'M A TUESDAY DEVICE OF MATH DESTRUCTION.



Well, I guess you CAN die from something being too cute


IT IS NOT YET YOUR TIME, CHRIS KIRKMAN. WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?
TO DELIVER A MESSAGE.
A MESSAGE? FOR ME? WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?
SURF'S UP!

We all got it comin', even Death.


ARGH! MY BEAUTIFUL FACE!
YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE BEFORE YOU CHOSE EVIL.
WHAT?! I'M NOT EVIL! I'M PART OF THE NATURAL CYCLE OF LIFE!
WELL, YOU SURE LOOK LIKE A BAD GUY. AND DEFEATING BAD GUYS IS WHAT I DO!
IS IT ALL YOU DO? YOU JUST DEFEAT BAD GUYS? DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES OR ANYTHING?
I SAVE LIVES! THAT'S WHO I AM!

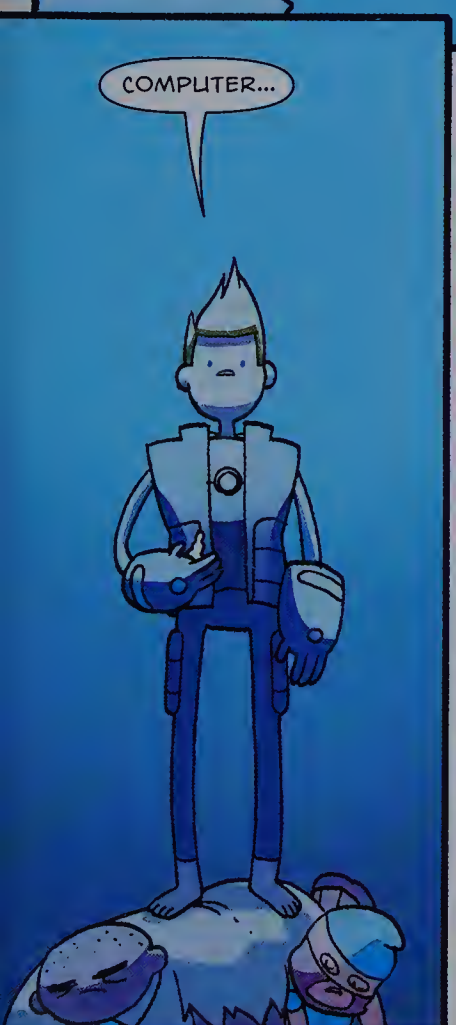
Meanwhile...
CHRIS KIRKMAN! WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
HE IS STRAIGHT-UP BOGARTING THE HOLO-JOHN! THAT'S LAME.
THE HOLO-JOHN IS OCCUPIED. PLEASE TRY AGAIN LATER.
WE SHOULD REALLY HAVE SEPARATE ROOMS FOR THE BATHROOM AND HOLO-PROJECTION-SIMULATOR.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, DANIEL. BUT WE MADE OUR CHOICE.
AND WE ALL AGREED THAT NONE OF US WANTED TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE WE HAD TO USE THE BATHROOM WITHOUT HOLOGRAMS.
PLUS THE HOLOGRAMS PROTECT US FROM THE HORRIFIC TRUTH ABOUT OUR BODIES!

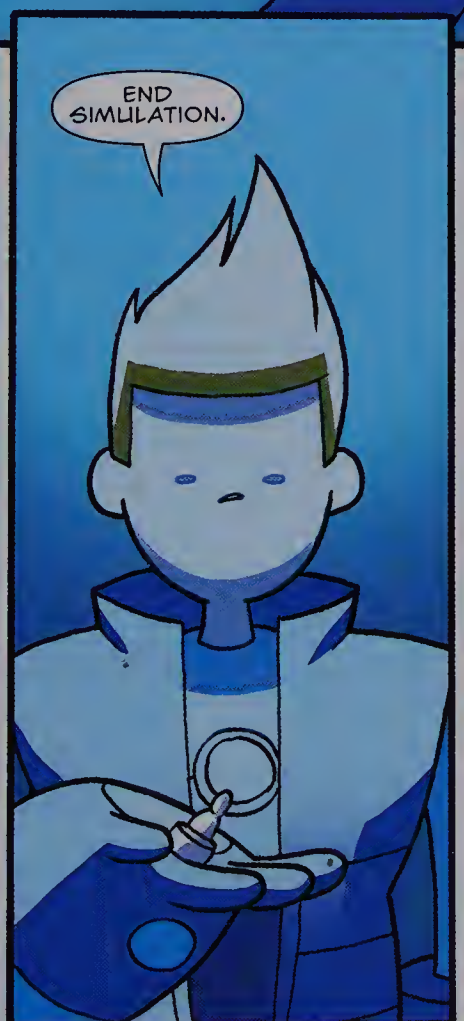
BY THE POWER OF CATBUG!
I...
AM...
CATBUG!
YOU HAVE SAVED THE DAY AGAIN, CHRIS KIRKMAN. BUT YOUR VICTORY BRINGS YOU NO CLOSER TO FREEDOM.
BRAVERY AND HEROICS ARE YOUR PRISON, AND YOUR VERY HEROISM IS YOUR CAGE, YOUNG WARRIOR.
IS THIS... TRASH TALK?
THIS IS THE WORST TRASH TALK OF ALL.
THIS IS THE TRUTH. THE SADDEST BURN OF ALL.

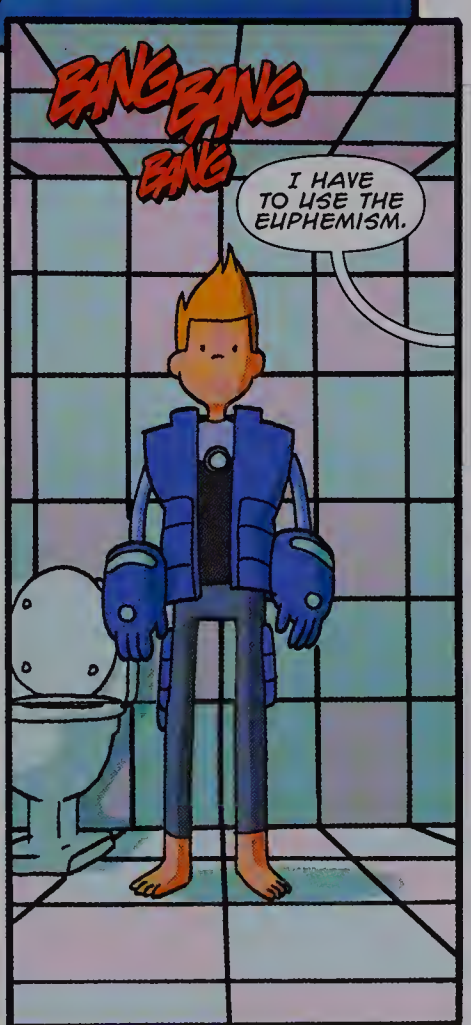
The most depressing of all trash is truth.

YES, YOU ARE A BRAVE WARRIOR, AND BECAUSE YOU ARE SO BRAVE, AND BECAUSE YOU ARE SUCH A GREAT WARRIOR...

I FEAR YOU WILL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO GROW...TO BECOME ANYTHING MORE...


COMPUTER...


END SIMULATION.


BANG BANG BANG
I HAVE TO USE THE EUPHEMISM.

WELL IF IT ISN'T CAPTAIN SLOW-JAM.
HEY GUYS!
WHAT DO YOU DO IN THERE EVERY DAY, BUDDY?
WALLOW! YOU CAN'T JUST ASK SOMEONE WHAT THEY DO IN THE WASHROOM EVERY DAY!
I DO WHAT EVERYONE ELSE DOES IN THE BATHROOM, WALLOW...
I PLAY A BRUTAL GAME OF CHESS WITH DEATH HIMSELF.
THE END

CHAPTER ELEVEN

FRIENDSHIP UNLOCKED!

New Moon Public School 665.
Dark side of the moon.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE MAGICIAN?
I DON'T MIND. UNLESS--AM I BEING SELFISH? DO YOU WANT TO BE THE MAGICIAN'S ASSISTANT?
UH...NO, THAT'S OKAY. I'LL BE THE MAGICIAN.

DO YOU KNOW ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I BECAME A SPACE WARRIOR, WALLOW?
I BECAME A SPACE WARRIOR BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CHILDREN IN SPACE.
Mister Magician 4 Principal
A ROOM FULL OF CHEERFUL MISTAKES.
WELL, WISH ME LUCK!
GOOD LUCK BUDDY!

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I COME BEFORE YOU ON THIS SPOOKY AUTUMN EVENING, NOT AS A MAN, BUT AS A DOORWAY.
A DOORWAY TO A WORLD WHERE MAGIC IS REAL, AND NOTHING IS AS SIMPLE AS IT FIRST APPEARS.
THERE ARE NO RABBITS IN THIS HAT, I'M AFRAID...
WHAT'S A RABBIT?
WAIT, KIDS CAN'T HAVE HEART ATTACKS, CAN THEY?
SHRUG

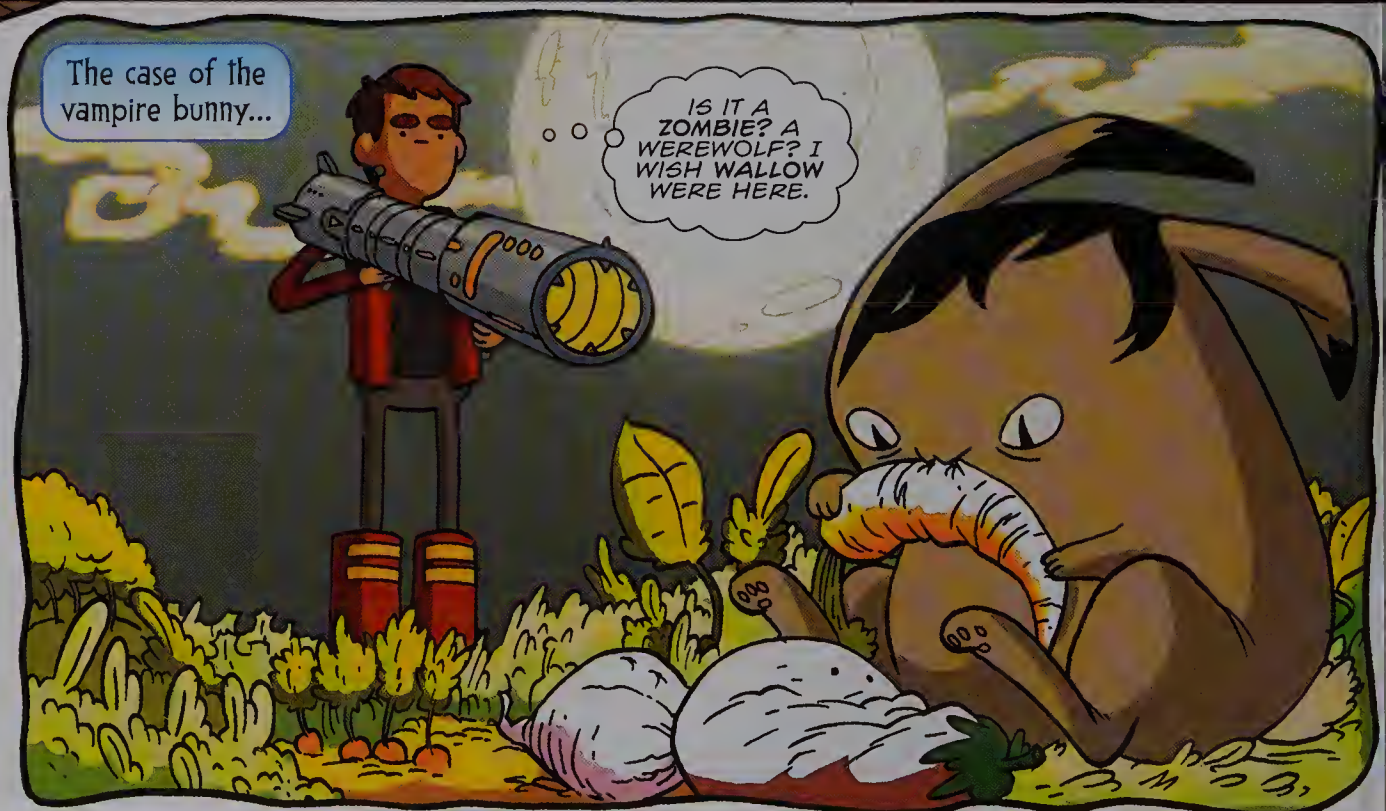
BRAVEST WARRIORS in: "YOU, SIR, ARE A TERRIBLE MAGICIAN."

THEY ARE JUST AS SCARED OF ME AS I AM OF THEM!
YOU'VE RUINED OUR BIRTHDAY PARTY!
WE GET THAT A LOT.
I HOPE FOR YOUR SAKE THAT BAZOOKA FIRES APOLOGIES, SON.

APOLOGIES?!
DID SHE SAY APOLOGIES?!
WHY SHOULD WE APOLOGIZE?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO EATS CHILDREN!

I DO WHAT?!
MARGE
SIX PLANETS NOW. SIX SCHOOLS. YOU SHOW UP. ANOTHER CHILD GOES MISSING.
NOW, CORRELATION IS NOT CAUSATION, BUT THE DATA DOES--
WAIT! YOU THINK IT'S ME? HAHAHA!
WALLOW, WILL YOU PLEASE TELL HER THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE! SHE'S THE WEREWOLF HERE, NOT US!
MA'AM, WE'VE TALKED IT OVER, AND WE DON'T THINK THAT WE SHOULD APOLOGIZE. YOU ARE THE WEREWOLF, HERE.

I HAVE SIX SILVER BAZOOKA BULLETS HERE, MARGE.
FIVE.
MARGE
WHAT?
REMEMBER THE CASE OF THE VAMPIRE BUNNY?


The case of the vampire bunny...
IS IT A ZOMBIE? A WEREWOLF? I WISH WALLOW WERE HERE.

I HAVE FIVE SILVER BAZOOKA BULLETS HERE, MARGE.

WAIT! LEAVE MY MOMMY ALONE PLEASE.
MARGE

GET OUT OF HERE, KID. YOU BOTHER ME.

IF YOU DON'T LEAVE MY MOMMY ALONE...

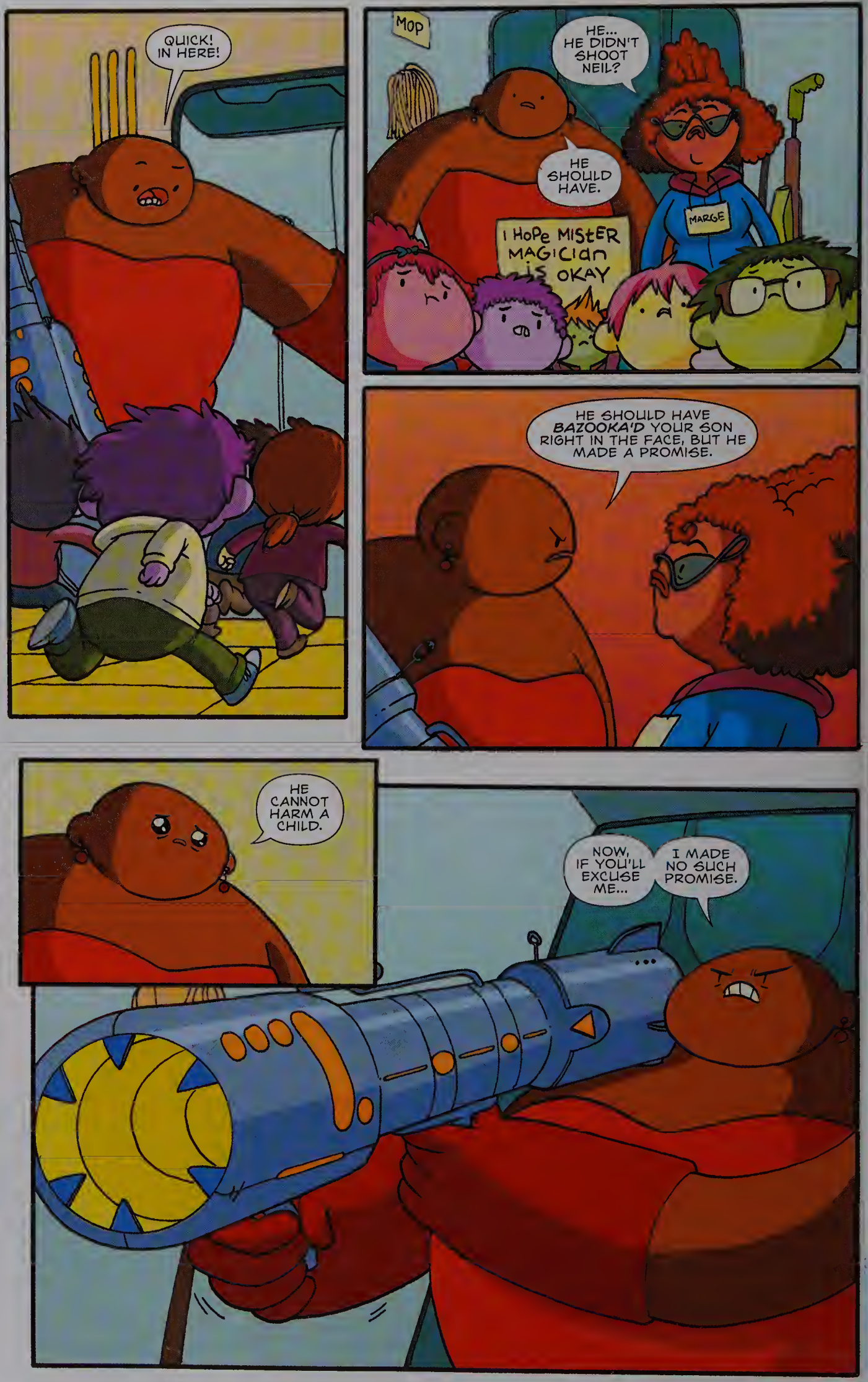
I WILL TEAR YOU LIMB FROM LIMB.

HAHAHA! YOU'LL WHAT?
WALLOW, I THINK WE HAVE OURSELVES A TOUGH GUY OVER HERE!
I WILL TEAR YOU...
...LIMB FROM LIMB!
SOMEBODY'S BEEN EATING HIS VEGETABLES!

BAZOOKA HIM! BAZOOKA THE HECK OUT OF HIM QUICK!
I CAN'T! YOU KNOW I CAN'T!
BAZOOKA THAT LITTLE KID!!
I CAN'T, WALLOW. I MADE A PROMISE.

Character-building flashback!
PROMISE ME YOU'LL NEVER BAZOOKA A CHILD AGAIN.
EVEN IF THEY'RE SECRETLY A WEREWOLF?
YES. EVEN IF THEY'RE SECRETLY A WEREWOLF.
OKAY. I PROMISE.

GET THESE KIDS TO SAFETY! I'LL KEEP IT BUSY!
IF I DIE, WALLOW, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU WERE A GOOD FRIEND. I'M GLAD WE GOT TO BE FRIENDS.
YOU'RE FUNNY, YOU'RE A GOOD PUNCHER, AND YOU'RE VERY HANDSOME. YOU MAKE MY DAYS BRIGHTER.
WHAT? I...I, UH...
RUN! SAVE THOSE KIDS!


QUICK! IN HERE!
MOP
HE... HE DIDN'T SHOOT NEIL?
HE SHOULD HAVE.
I HOPE MISTER MAGICIAN IS OKAY
MARGE
HE SHOULD HAVE BAZOOKA'D YOUR SON RIGHT IN THE FACE, BUT HE MADE A PROMISE.
HE CANNOT HARM A CHILD.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
I MADE NO SUCH PROMISE.
...

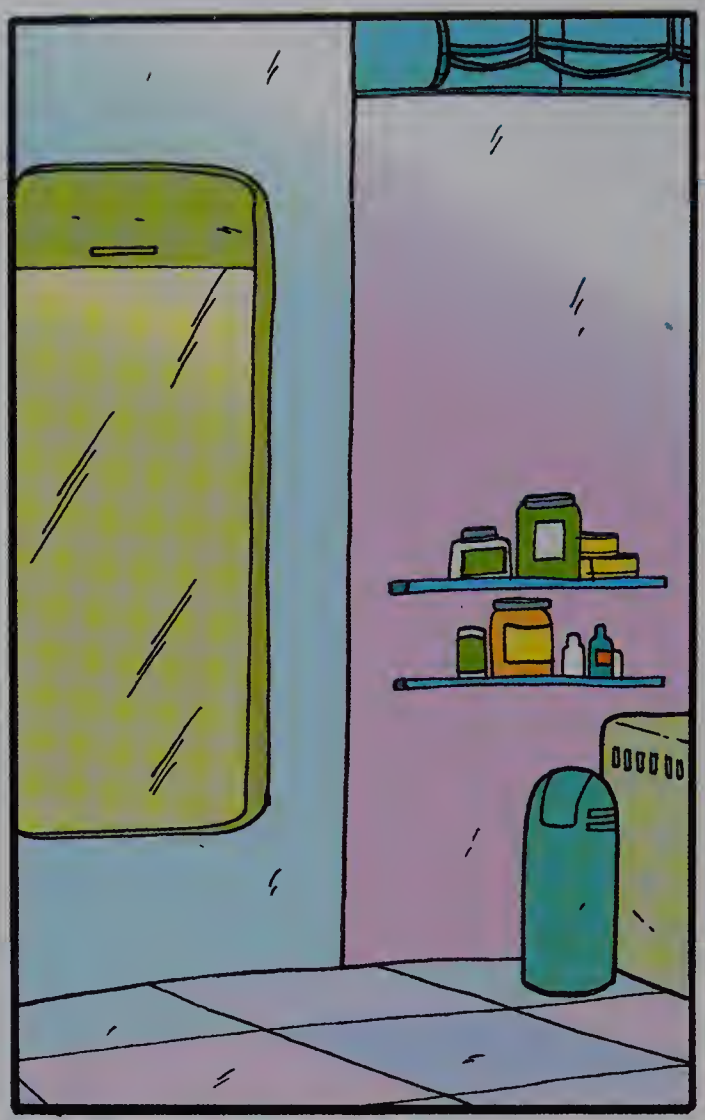
Meanwhile...
NO, IF SOMEONE HAS TO DO THIS, IT SHOULD BE ME. I'VE LET THIS GO ON LONG ENOUGH.
ARGE
I'M HIS MOTHER. IF HE HAS TO BE BAZOOKA'D, THEN I OWE IT TO HIM TO DO THIS MYSELF.
ARGE
MOP

THAT IDIOT GAVE ME THE BAZOOKA!
UGH, SPIT THAT OUT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT FILTHY MAGICIAN HAS BEEN!
SO THEY ESCAPED?
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
IN RETROSPECT, I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN HER OUR OVER-SIZED BAZOOKA.
AH WELL. LIVE AND LEARN I GUESS.
GLAD I'M UP-TO-DATE WITH MY WEREWOLF SHOTS.
HELLO?
THE END

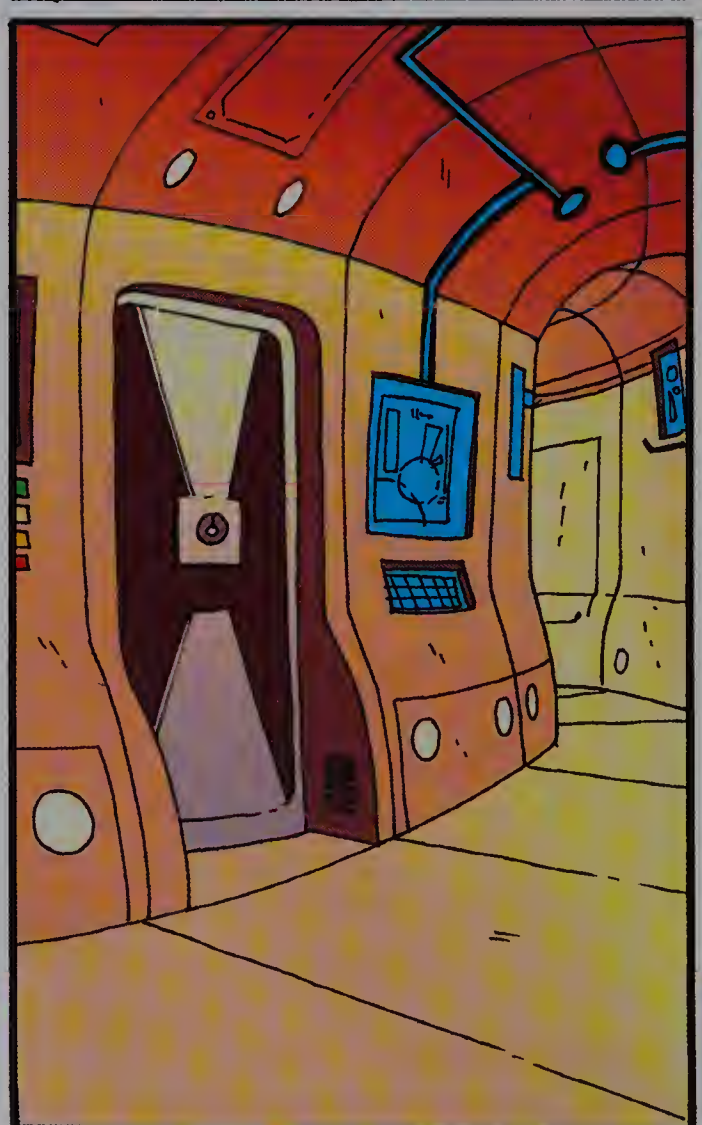
CHAPTER TWELVE

FRIENDSHIP UNLOCKED!

GOOD NIGHT! SLEEP TIGHT! DON'T LET THE SWARM OF NANO-SPIDERS THAT ESCAPED FROM MY LAB BITE!
There's something peaceful about night time, isn't there?

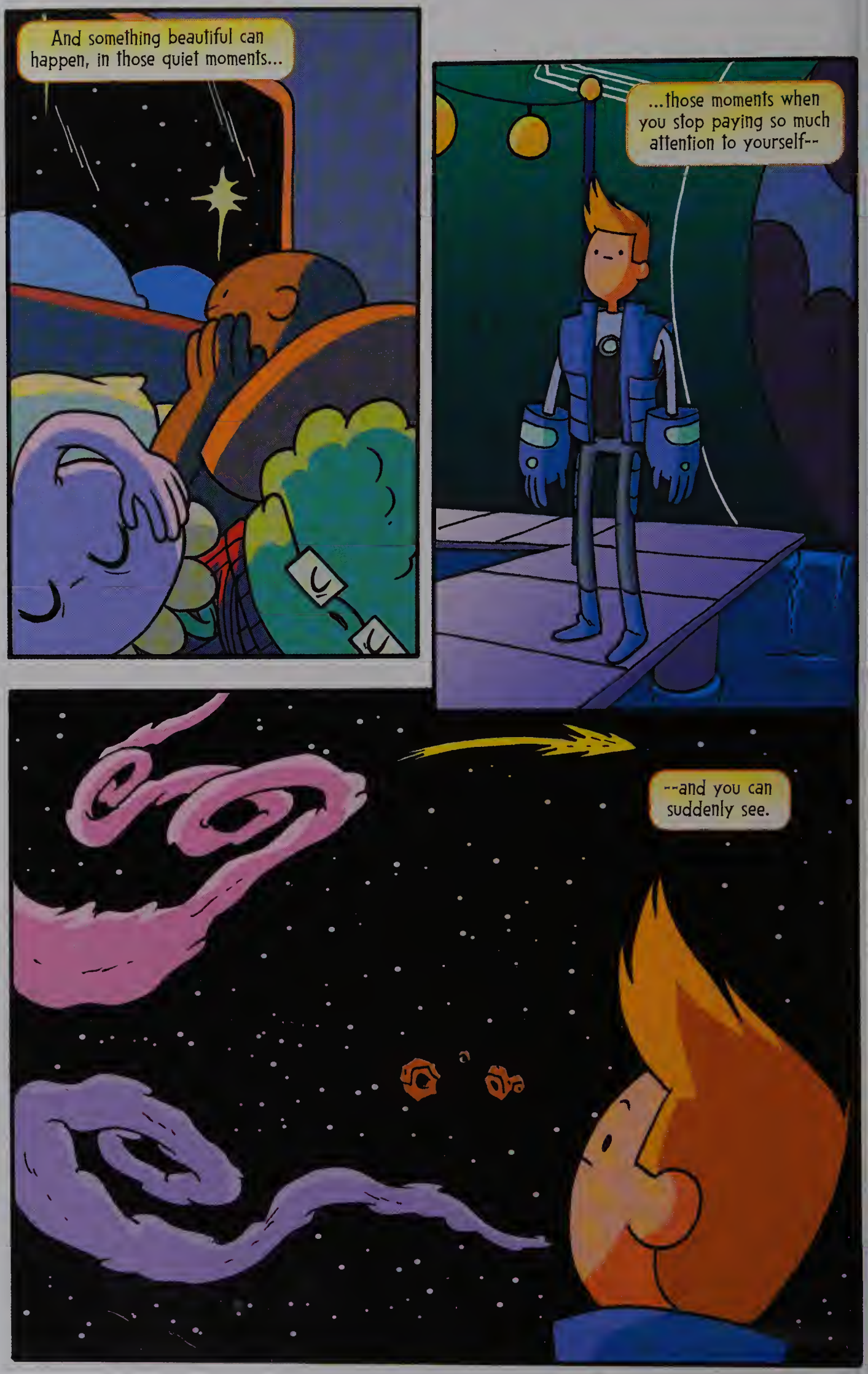


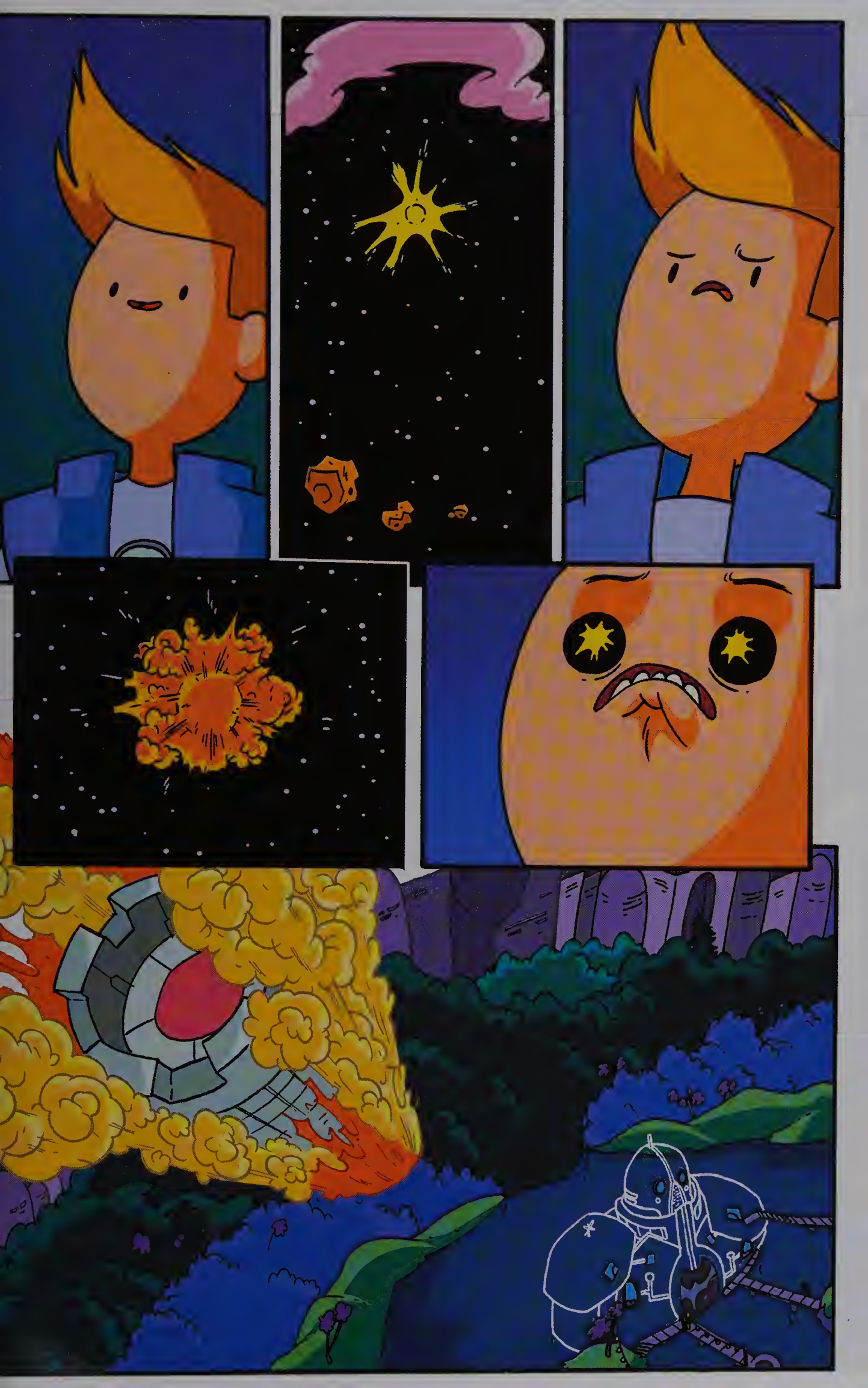
EARTH



ZZZZZ... WE'RE LEVEL 2 FRIENDS NOW...OKAY? ZZZZ.

For a few short hours, they don't have to be the Bravest Warriors. They don't have to be heroes. They don't have to make one another laugh, or come up with sweet Battle Burns.
For a few short hours they can let their guard down. They don't even have to be themselves. They can just be.


And something beautiful can happen, in those quiet moments...
...those moments when you stop paying so much attention to yourself--
--and you can suddenly see.

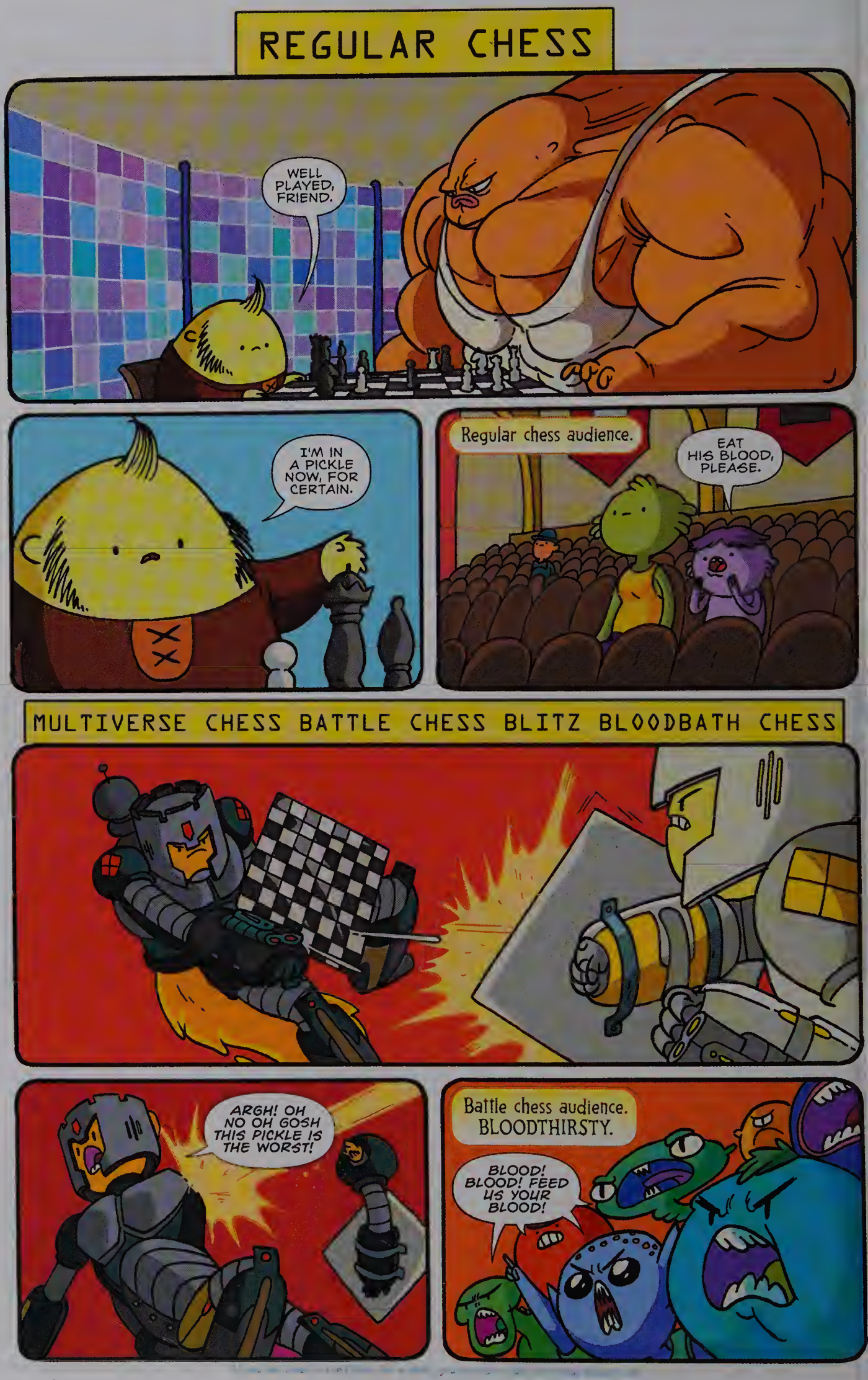


CARTOON HANGOVER
BRAVEST WARRIORS in:
SLEEP IS FOR THE WEAK!
ALL LIVE CHESS BLITZ PLAYERS
Chess
CHESS
Chess

ARE YOU THE BRAVEST WARRIORS?
WE SURE ARE!
AND YOU AREN'T CELERY PEOPLE, ARE YOU?
HA HA, JUST KIDDING! WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH CELERY PEOPLE.
ESPECIALLY IF YOU AREN'T CELERY PEOPLE!
WE AREN'T... WHAT?

HELLO! PLEASE IGNORE HIM! HELLO! DID YOU ALL FILL OUT YOUR FORMS?
HI...? I'M CHRIS...
WE SURE DID! WE LOVE FILLING OUT FORMS!
THEN WELCOME TO THE MULTIVERSE BATTLE CHESS BLITZ BLOODBATH!

WE'VE SELECTED BETH TEZUKA AND CHRIS KIRKMAN TO COMPETE IN THIS YEAR'S CHAMPIONSHIP.
OH MAN! OH MAN! OH MAN!
REALLY? I DON'T KNOW...
YOU DON'T KNOW? WE'LL YOU'D BETTER START KNOWING, KIRKMAN. WE ARE GOING TO CRUSH OUR OPPONENTS.
THE CHESS CROWN WILL BE OURS, EVEN IF I HAVE TO BEAN YOU UNCONSCIOUS AND DRAG YOUR UNENTHUSIASTIC BOD TO VICTORY.
YOU OKAY, WALLOW?
I NEVER UNDERSTOOD BATTLE CHESS BLITZ, I GUESS. WHAT'S WRONG WITH REGULAR CHESS? I LIKE CHESS.


REGULAR CHESS
WELL PLAYED, FRIEND.
I'M IN A PICKLE NOW, FOR CERTAIN.
Regular chess audience.
EAT HIS BLOOD, PLEASE.
MULTIVERSE CHESS BATTLE CHESS BLITZ BLOODBATH CHESS
ARGH! OH NO OH GOSH THIS PICKLE IS THE WORST!
Battle chess audience. BLOODTHIRSTY.
BLOOD! BLOOD! FEED US YOUR BLOOD!

Game 1. Chris Kirkman vs. Killer Brain Death Being.
I HAVE TRAINED MY WHOLE LIFE FOR THIS, CHILD. YOU ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO ME.
WOOOO! CHRIS! GO CHRIS!
JUST DO YOUR BEST CHRIS! WE LOVE YOU EITHER WAY!
BUT WE'LL LOVE YOU EVEN MORE WHEN YOU WIN!
HIS
KRNNNCH
IT'S OKAY BUDDY! YOU DON'T NEED BOTH ARMS TO WIN! AS LONG AS YOU STILL HAVE--
KRNNNCH
OH GOSH.
UH...KICK HIM!

YOU DID GREAT, BUDDY!
BETH, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD DO THIS.
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO CHRIS. WHAT IF YOU GET HURT?
I'M NOT CHRIS, DANNY. AND I'M NOT GOING TO CHICKEN OUT.
WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO CHICKEN OUT? WHAT IF YOU HAD A LITTLE HELP?
I'M NOT A CHEATER. I'M GOOD AT CHESS. I'M GOING TO WIN THIS FAIR AND SQUARE.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT CHEATING? I'M TALKING ABOUT SMARTERAX B.
IT JUST LETS YOU BE THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF. YOU DON'T GET TIRED. YOU DON'T GET BORED. YOU CAN FOCUS ON CHESS WITH LASER PRECISION.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...
SHHH. LET HIM FINISH.

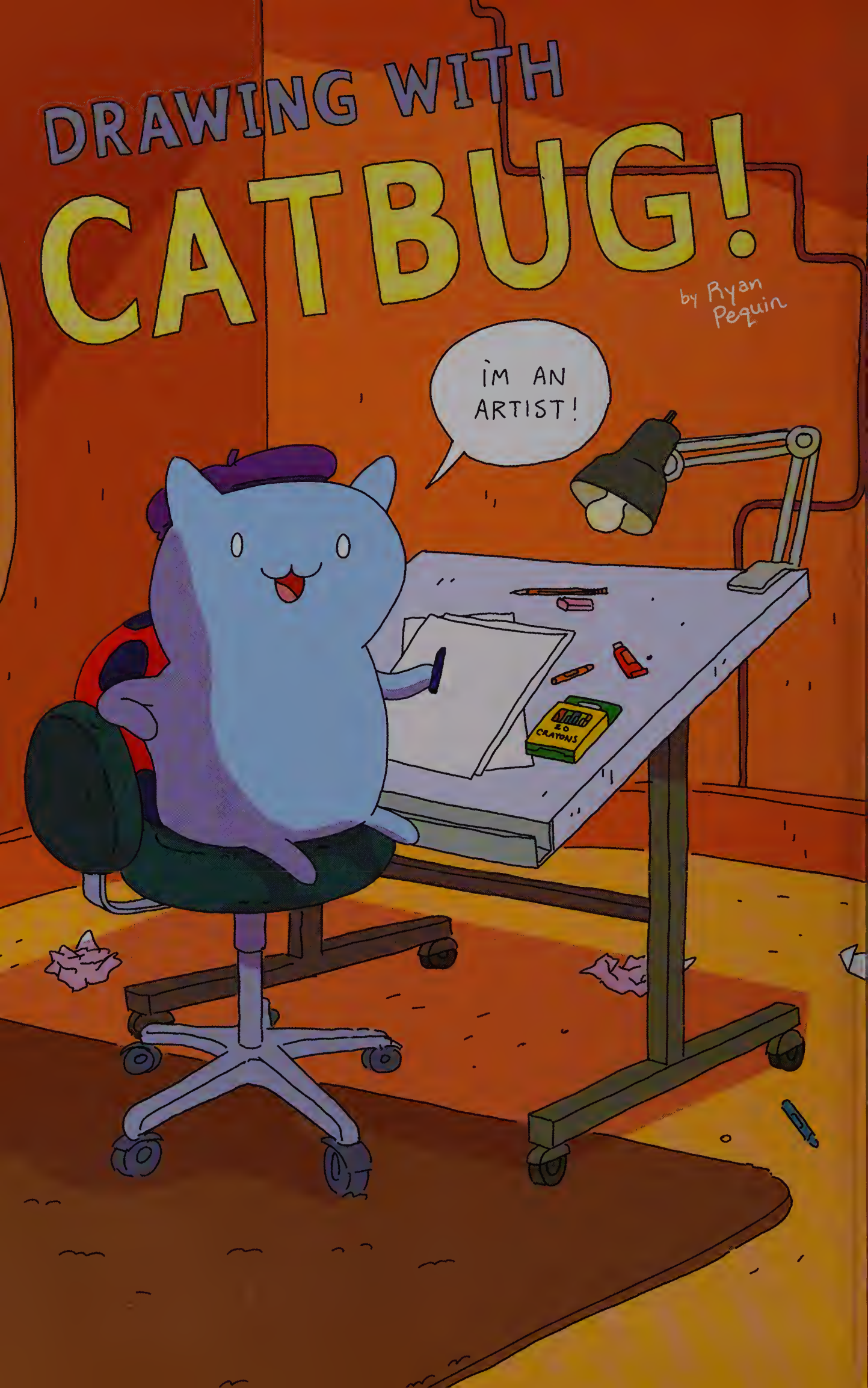
C'mon kid, everybody takes smart drugs these days. Even catbug

THE BEST ME THAT I CAN BE?
BETH! NO!
THIS ISN'T THE WAY.
YOU'RE THE BEST BATTLE CHESS BLITZ PLAYER I KNOW.
YOU DON'T NEED ANY PILL TO HELP YOU. YOU JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.
GARBAGE DISPOSAL HOLE - GARBAGE
And so Beth believed in herself...
GO BETH GO!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT! YOU TOTALLY HAVE...
BE CAREFUL OF YOUR ARMS
KRNNNCH
THAT SOUND.
SHE MIGHT STILL HAVE A CHANCE IF SHE...
SNAP
NOPE.
WALLOW
BE
OF

EVEN THOUGH YOU GUYS LOST, I'M STILL PROUD OF YOU.
PLEASE BE QUIET WALLOW.
There's something peaceful about night time, isn't there?
EARTH
ZZZZZ... MRR? I COULD GIVE YOU A HUG FOR ONE? ZZZZ.

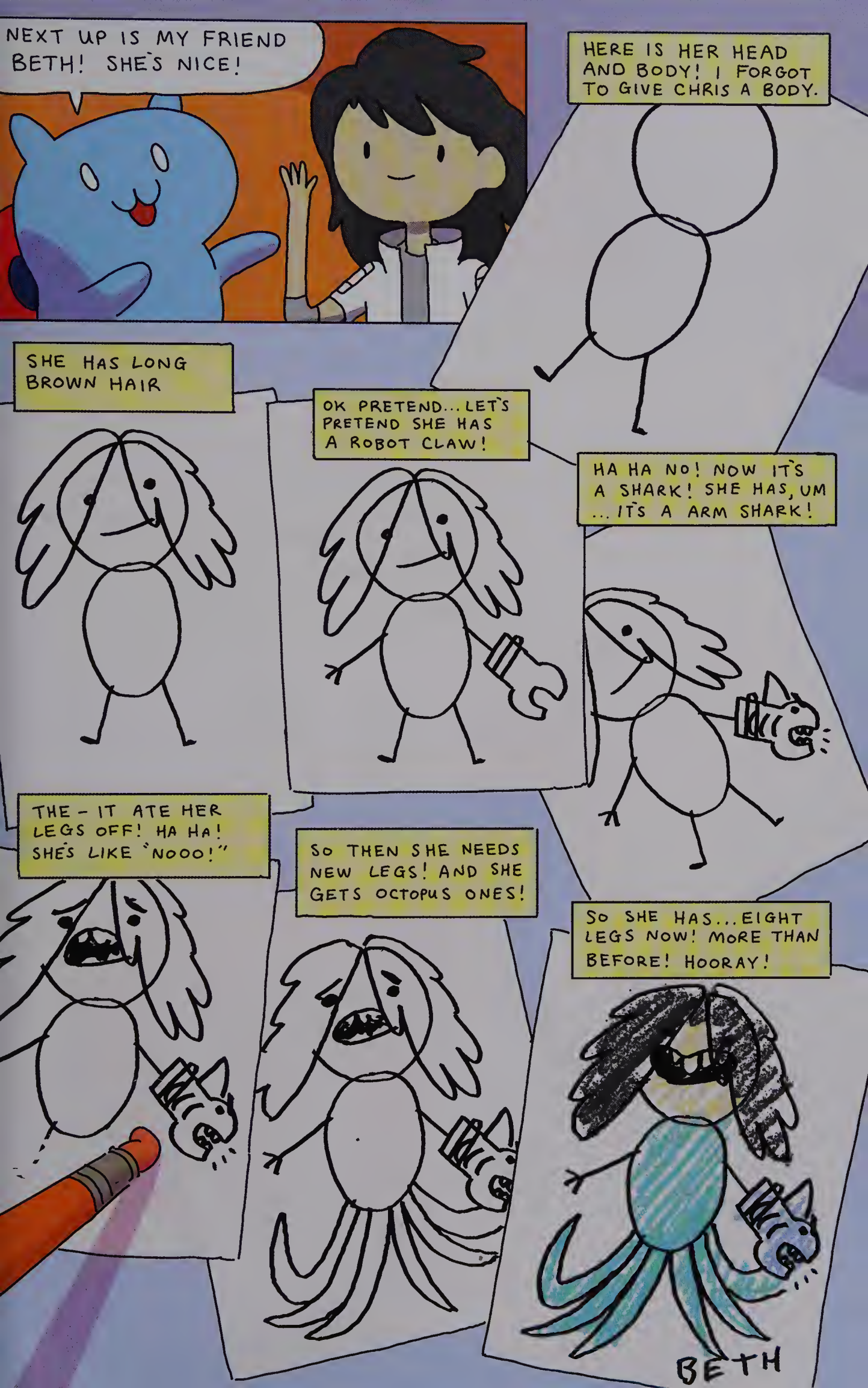
Our brave heroes end their day for the second time. And, as always, the darkness lets their minds wander.
Once again, they can let their guards down.
They don't have to be warriors, or teenagers, or chess experts. They don't even have to be themselves.
And sometimes, that can be a good thing.

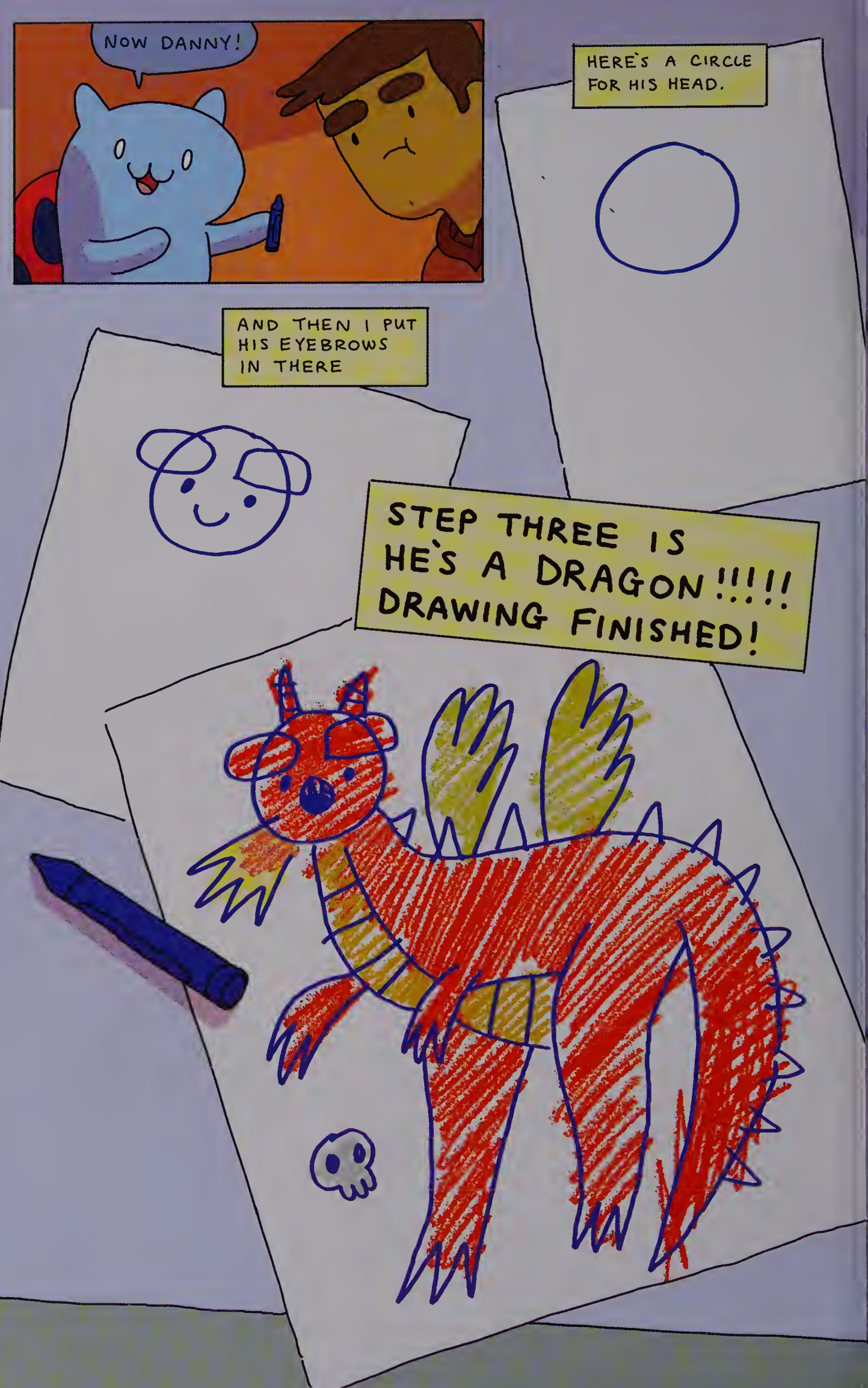
Let's be honest.
Sometimes, being yourself isn't enough.
THE END

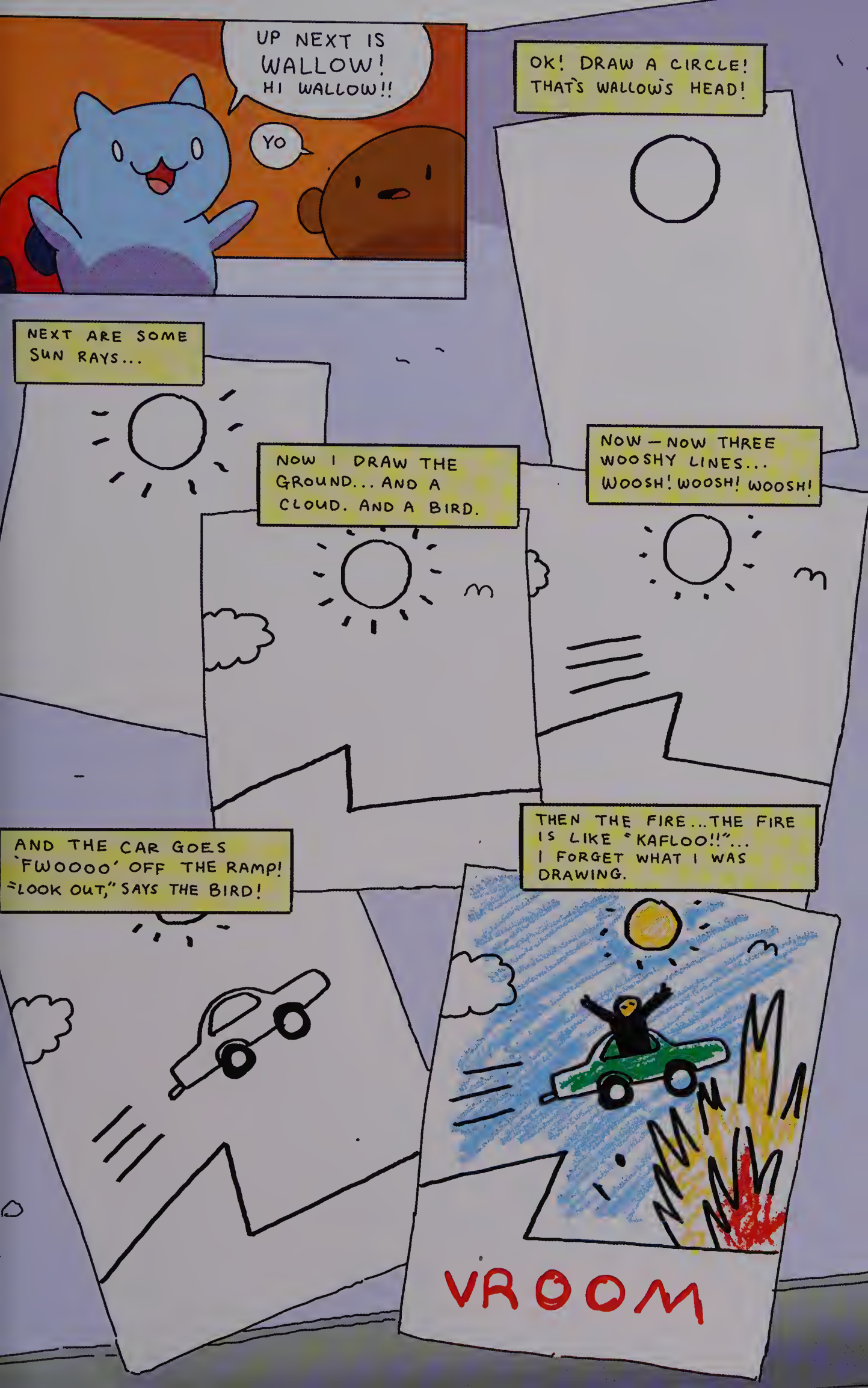

DRAWING WITH
CATBUG!
by Ryan Pequin
I'M AN ARTIST!
20 CRAYONS

HI! I'M CATBUG!!
DO YOU LIKE DRAWING? ME TOO! IT'S FUN! I HAVE MY OWN CRAYONS AND PAPER AND EVERY-THING!
20 CRAYONS
TODAY I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU HOW TO DRAW MY BEST FRIENDS —
THE BRAVEST WARRIORS!!
HEY

OKAY! LET'S GET START-ED!
You're first Chris! Hold real still ok?
You got it, bud!
I always draw a circle first! Circles are head-shaped.
Next I draw eyes so the circle can look at things!
Chris's head is all spiky. This is real important to draw.
Oops! I did too many spikes
Fixed it! Now Chris is the sun. He's giving a thumbs up 'cuz he has a good life.


NEXT UP IS MY FRIEND BETH! SHE'S NICE!
HERE IS HER HEAD AND BODY! I FORGOT TO GIVE CHRIS A BODY.
SHE HAS LONG BROWN HAIR
OK PRETEND... LET'S PRETEND SHE HAS A ROBOT CLAW!
HA HA NO! NOW IT'S A SHARK! SHE HAS, UM ... IT'S A ARM SHARK!
THE - IT ATE HER LEGS OFF! HA HA! SHE'S LIKE "NOOO!"
SO THEN SHE NEEDS NEW LEGS! AND SHE GETS OCTOPUS ONES!
SO SHE HAS... EIGHT LEGS NOW! MORE THAN BEFORE! HOORAY!
BETH


NOW DANNY!
HERE'S A CIRCLE FOR HIS HEAD.
AND THEN I PUT HIS EYEBROWS IN THERE
STEP THREE IS HE'S A DRAGON!!!!! DRAWING FINISHED!


UP NEXT IS WALLOW! HI WALLOW!!
YO
OK! DRAW A CIRCLE! THAT'S WALLOW'S HEAD!
NEXT ARE SOME SUN RAYS...
NOW I DRAW THE GROUND... AND A CLOUD. AND A BIRD.
NOW — NOW THREE WOOSHY LINES... WOOSH! WOOSH! WOOSH!
AND THE CAR GOES 'FWOOOO' OFF THE RAMP! "LOOK OUT," SAYS THE BIRD!
THEN THE FIRE...THE FIRE IS LIKE "KAFLOO!!"... I FORGET WHAT I WAS DRAWING.
VROOM

A
BET
R
VROOM
AND THAT'S HOW YOU DRAW THE BRAVEST WARRIORS! YOU'RE WELCOME!
FIN

BRAVEST WARRIORS
-IN- "BOARD TO TEARS" - BY RYAN PEQUIN
AGES 10 +UP
I HOPE EVERY-BODY GREASED UP THEIR DICE TOSSIN' HANDS! IT'S BOARD GAME NIGHT!

OH. GOOD. IS IT WEDNESDAY ALREADY?
SPACE MARINE
YAY! BOARD GAMES!
WHAT ARE WE PLAYING TONIGHT? FIRE IN THE HOLE? "DON'T SMELL THAT?"
OOH! IS IT GOBLINTOWN? A GOBLIN-TOWN EXPANSION SET?
BETTER! IT'S A BRAND NEW ONE — BOUGHT IT JUST THIS MORNING!
SPACE MARINE
OHH, 'SPACE MARINE!' I'VE HEARD OF THIS ONE, ACTUALLY.
SPACE MARINE
YOU ALL PLAY AS A SOLDIER DUDE AND YOU HAVE TO TRY TO GET TO THE END WITHOUT BEING TORN APART BY ALIENS.
OR, EVEN MORE FUN, BY EACH OTHER!
SPACE MARINE
THIS GAME BROKE THE WORLD RECORD FOR ALL-TIME MOST FRIENDSHIPS DESTROYED! LET'S DO THIS!
SPACE MARINE

OK - FIRST WE ROLL THE DICE TO SEE WHICH CHARACTER WE PLAY AS. GO FOR IT, WAL!
I GOT THIS CENTAUR GUY
I'M THIS SPACE GHOST
I'M BUFF FLAMING SWORD
I'M CATBUG!
I'M... A WHEELBARROW
WHEELBARROW GETS TO ROLL FIRST
1...2...3...4!
TAKE A CARD
"YOU'VE BEEN BUM-RUSHED! WHOEVER IS PLAYING AS THE CENTAUR GETS TO PUNCH YOUR BUTT FOR TWO ROUNDS."
HAHA, FOR REAL? THIS GAME IS ALREADY BETTER THAN GOBLIN-TOWN!

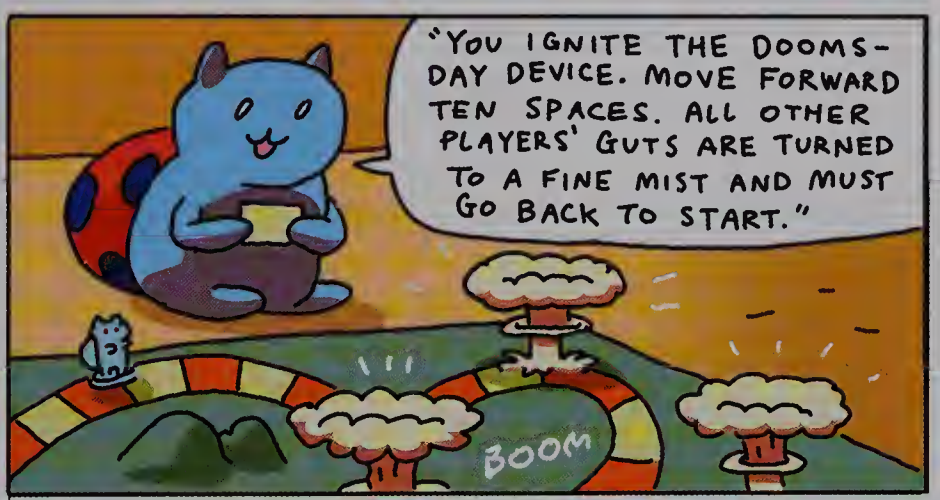
...K. OK. I GUESS IT'S MY TURN.
...3...4...5...6!
PICK A CARD
ALIEN EATS YOU
SAFE
BOMB!
ANOTHER BOMB
AH!!
BOOM!
YEP. OKAY. I QUIT.
WHAT!
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP AFTER YOUR FIRST TURN!
SURE I CAN! BESIDES, I CAN TELL WHERE THIS IS HEADED.
IF YOU PLAY THIS LONG ENOUGH YOU'RE GOING TO MURDER EACH OTHER FOR REALSIES.
OH, COME - OW! - ON, DUDE. IT'S - OW! - IT'S - OW! ... JUST A GAME.
YEAH - HUNH! - WE'RE MATURE - HUNH! - ADULTS. WE'RE NOT THAT - HUH! - EASILY MANIPULATED!
WHUMP WHUMP

19 HOURS LATER ...

WELL IF YOU HADN'T SHOT MY GUY'S BONES OUT TWO TURNS AGO I WOULDN'T HAVE MELTED YOUR GUYS' FACE!

THAT WASN'T MY DECISION! THE CARD TOLD ME TO—

MY TURN!


"YOU IGNITE THE DOOMS-DAY DEVICE. MOVE FORWARD TEN SPACES. ALL OTHER PLAYERS' GUTS ARE TURNED TO A FINE MIST AND MUST GO BACK TO START."
BOOM

AAAAAAA!!!! ... AAA!!!!! IT TOOK SEVENTEEN HOURS TO MOVE FIVE SPACES!

I'M GOING TO THROW UP

I'M GOOD AT THIS!

30 HOURS LATER ...
PICK UP ... A CARD
"YOUR CHARACTER LOSES HIS TORSO IN A BOATING ACCIDENT. GIVE THE PLAYER TO YOUR RIGHT TEN DOLLARS AND GO BACK TO START."
OH! THANKS!
ZAP!

THAT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SMOKING HOLE I'VE EVER SEEN.
LET'S NEVER SPEAK OF THIS BOARD GAME AGAIN UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH.
LET'S ALSO NOT TALK TO EACH OTHER FOR ... SIX DAYS. AT LEAST.
AGREED.
OF COURSE
I'M SO ANGRY I NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
YES. LET'S ALL OF US GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
HEY GUYS! THAT WAS NEAT! DID I WIN THE GAME?
DEPENDS. DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU WANT A SHARK TO EAT YOU?
NO!
THEN YOU WIN.
YAAAAAAAAAAAAY!
THE END

DRAWING WITH
CATBUG!
IMPOSSIBEAR
by Ryan Pequin

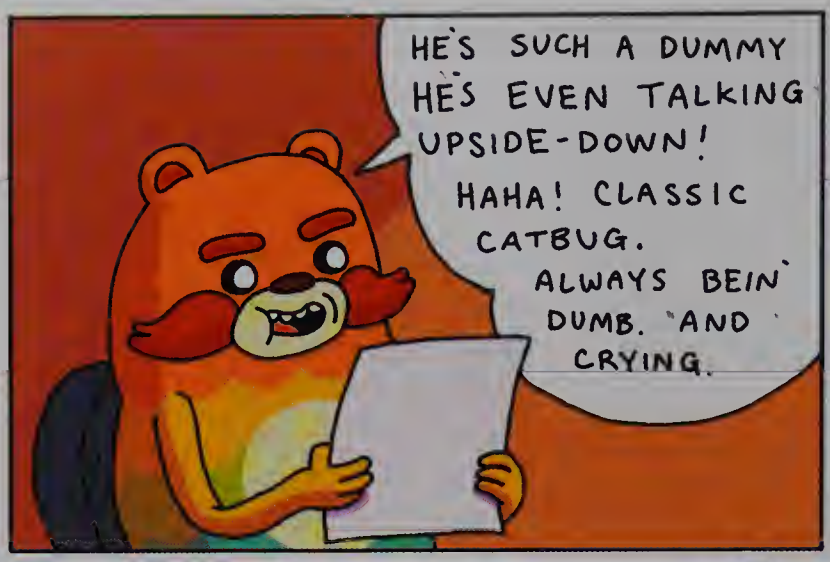
HEY THERE, Y'ALL. IT'S ME —
NO FAIR, IMPOSSIBEAR! IT'S MY TURN TO DRAW FOR — ME!
OOF!
SHOVE
OW!
thud
TODAY IM GONNA SHOW You SUCKAS HOW TO DRAW!
NORMALLY I THINK DRAWING IS LAME AND BORING BUT IF CATBUG GETS HIS OWN COMIC THEN SO DO I.
SO LETS GET STARTED!

FIRST IM GONNA DRAW... UH... HMM...
OH! PERFECT! ILL DRAW THIS GROSS SPACE CHICKEN!
FLAP
FLAP
FIRST I DRAW THE GROSS BODY, THEN THE GROSS EYE...
THE GROSS BEAK...
TONGUE
THEN YOU GOTTA MAKE SURE HE LOOKS REAL DUMB.
? ? ? ? ? ?

PORTRAIT FINISHED! NOW BEAT IT, DUMB BIRD!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
?????
WHO DO I DRAW NEXT?
OOH! ME!
FIRST, MY BODY
MY SWEET BICEPS
MY SUPER GOOD LEGS
THEN MY ABS, MY GOLDEN CROWN, AND THE SKULLS OF MY ENEMIES.
TEET

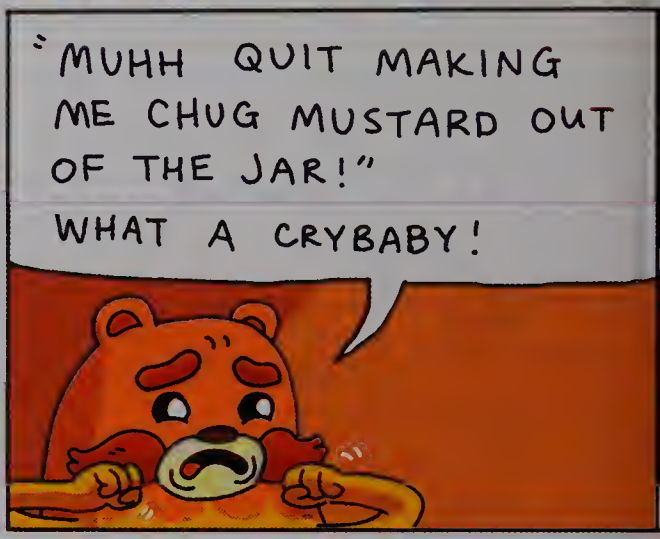
NICE. ACCURATE.
NOW I GOTTA DRAW SOMEONE ELSE. BUT WHO...
OF COURSE!
ME!
SNAP
HERE COMES MY SWEET SMILIN' FACE!
RIPPLING PECS, OBVIOUSLY
GOTTA GET MY BIG BLUE EYES IN THERE
MY CHISELED JAW
AND, LASTLY, A DAPPER HAT! AND, I DUNNO, SOME FANGS

YEAHH... BEAUTI-FUL.
I GUESS I GOTTA DO ONE MORE. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO DRAW CATBUG
HERES HIS LUMPY LITTLE BODY
NEXT, DRAW HIS DUMB HAPPY SMILE
MAKE SURE YOU DRAW HIM BEING DUMB
NOW HES CRY-ING! AS USUAL!
DUHH
IM A BABY
IF YOU FLIP IT UPSIDE DOWN HE LOOKS LIKE HES FALLING OVER!


HE'S SUCH A DUMMY HE'S EVEN TALKING UPSIDE-DOWN!
HAHA! CLASSIC CATBUG. ALWAYS BEIN' DUMB. 'AND CRYING.

"WAH! DON'T THROW THE TOASTER AT ME!"

"BOO HOO! STOP PUTTING ICE CUBES UNDER MY EYELIDS!"


"MUHH QUIT MAKING ME CHUG MUSTARD OUT OF THE JAR!"
WHAT A CRYBABY!

HAHA, I-UH

'SUP.

STOP BEING MEAN TO CATBUG, IMPOSSIBEAR.

AND AS PUNISHMENT, I'M ONLY GONNA PUT THESE DRAWINGS ON THE FRIDGE FOR ONE WEEK INSTEAD OF TWO.
AW, MAN!

END.

BRAVEST WARRIORS
~IN~
"WARP ZONED OUT"
by Ryan Pequin

POW! POW! PRESS 'Y' TO KARATE CHOP

OH! HEY, IS THIS A NEW GAME?
MM

YOU REALLY ZONE OUT WHEN YOU PLAY THESE THINGS, HEY?

BUH.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE I COULD SAY JUST ABOUT ANYTHING TO YOU RIGHT NOW...

...AND YOU'D JUST NOD YOUR HEAD AND PRETEND YOU WERE LISTENING

NOD

DANNY! QUICK! STOP PLAYING FOR A SEC! THIS BOX OF PUPPIES NEEDS YOU TO NUZZLE THEIR TUMMIES WITH YOUR FACE! OR THEY'LL EXPLODE!!

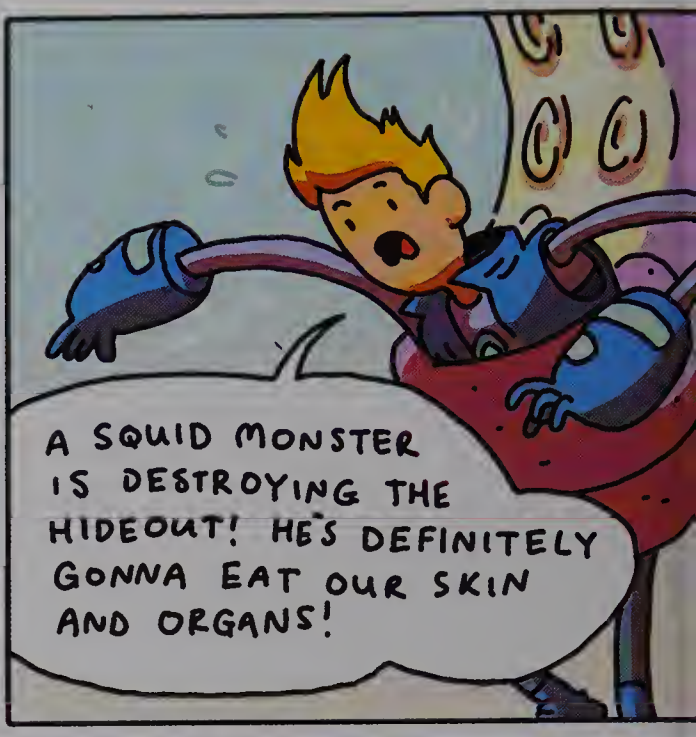
DANNY! THE GIRL YOU LIKE IS HERE! SHE SAYS TO STOP PLAYING SO SHE CAN DO SMOOCHES TO YOU!

SURE, YOU CAN BORROW IT.

SOON:
DANNY! THERE'S A GUY FROM THE GOVERNMENT HERE! HE SAYS THAT UNLESS YOU GO TALK TO HIM THEY'RE GONNA PRINT "DANNY'S BUTT SMELLS" ON THE TEN DOLLAR BILL!
DANNY! TURN AROUND FOR A SECOND! CATBUG IS DOING A CRIME AND ONLY YOU CAN OFFER HIM THE GUIDANCE THAT'LL HELP HIM TURN HIS LIFE AROUND!
DANNY! I ATE TWO BOWLS OF CEREAL TODAY! I'M A LITTLE SLEEPY!

BOOM!
AAAA!!

DANNY! STOP PLAYING! FOR REAL! THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!


A SQUID MONSTER IS DESTROYING THE HIDEOUT! HE'S DEFINITELY GONNA EAT OUR SKIN AND ORGANS!

WOULD YOU GUYS PLEASE SHUSH? IM DOING REALLY GOOD.

PAUSE THE GAME FOR FIVE SECONDS, DUDE!
GET SOMETHING HEAVY! OR SHARP! OR A BAZOOKA!

NOT THE BEST TIME FOR HUGS, GUYS.
SQUEEZE
SLITHER

WOOSH

BROS, SERIOUSLY. STARTING TO ANNOY ME.

SMASH
AAA!!! AAAA!!! MY GAME! THE TV! MY HIGH SCORE!
RUINED!!
YOU.
DRAMATIC TURN
JRRRR
WOOSH
ONE MINUTE LATER:
SO... WHERE'S THIS GIRL THAT WANTS TO SMOOCH ME?

THE END.

COVER GALLERY

COVER 9A
TYSON HESSE

COVER 9B
STEPHANIE STOBER

COVER 9C
CLAIRE HUMMEL

COVER 9D
BROOKE A. ALLEN

COVER 10A
TYSON HESSE

COVER 10B
JOE ENGLAND
JOE

COVER 10C
MATT DOERING

COVER 10D
ALEXANDRA DOUGLASS

COVER 11A
TYSON HESSE

COVER 11B
MAARTA LAIHO

COVER 11C
KELSEY SHORT

COVER 11D
IAN McGINTY
WITH COLORS BY JAVIER REYES

COVER 12A
TYSON HESSE

COVER 12B
JOANNA ESTEP

COVER 12C
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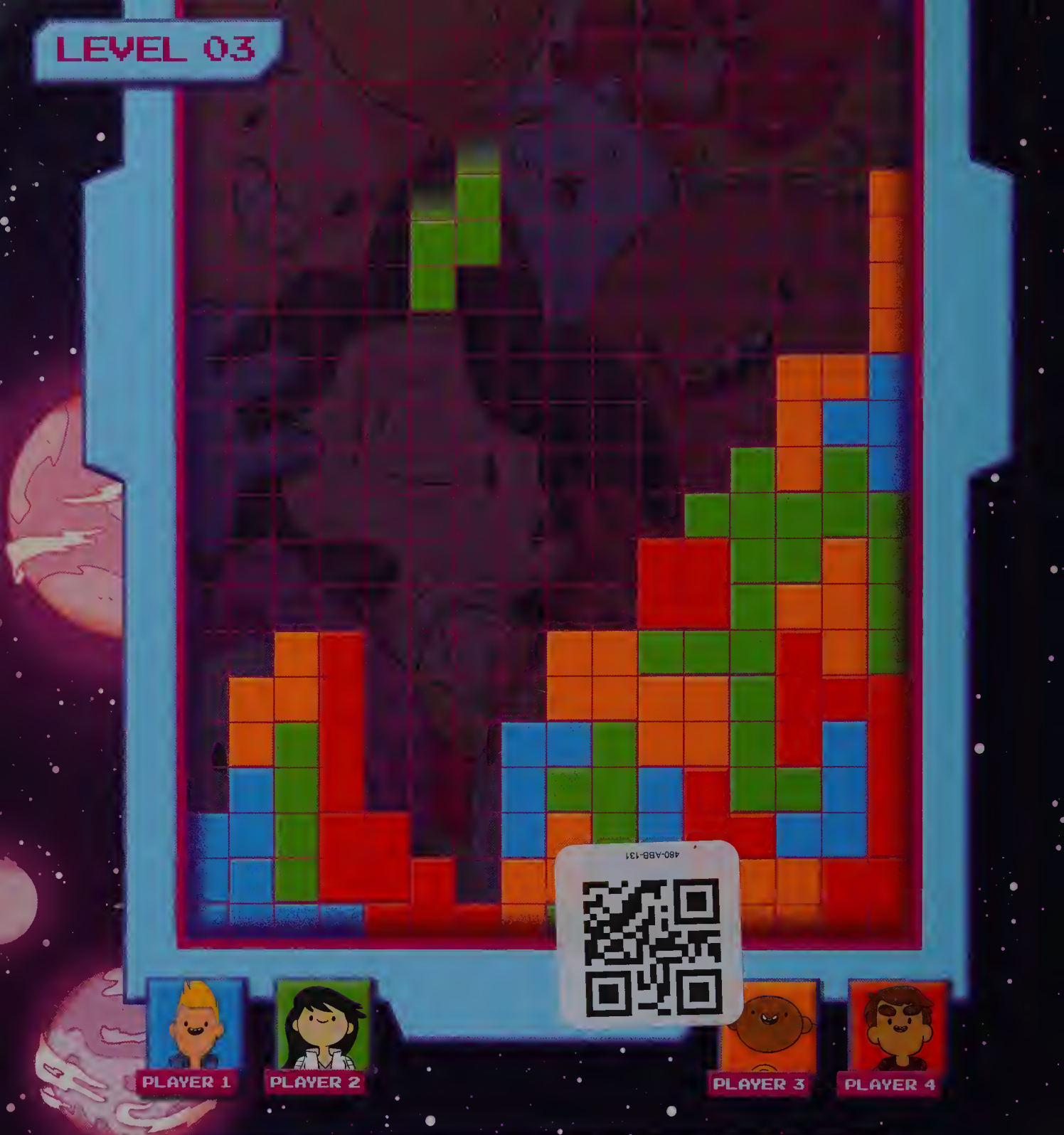

FRESH AS THE DICKENS!

Catbug is the most dangerous creation in the universe and now it's up to Chris to save the world and Catbug...through punches. It's the tournament everyone has been waiting for...MULTIVERSE BATTLE CHESS BLITZ BLOODBATH! Will our heroes be up to the challenge or is it already too late? Find out in these brand new missions written by acclaimed cartoonist Joey Comeau (*A Softer World*) and illustrated by Mike Hol[illegible] short stories from *Three Word Phrase* creator Ryan Pequin!

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